FBIS-SOV-87-062
Wednesday
1 April 1987
Vol III No 062 Supp 003

Supplement

Daily Report

SOVIET UNION

18TH AUCCTU CONGRESS

CONCLUSION

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Soviet Union

Vol III No 062 Supp 003 1 April 1987

Further on Gorbachev Address at 18th AUCCTU Congress 1
TASS Russian Version 1
Shalayev Thanks Gorbachev 17
CSSR, Romanian Reaction [PRAVDA 28 Feb] 17
Poland's Miodowicz on Speech 18
Travkin on Speech, Congress 19
Foreign Delegates Address Congress 25 Feb 21
Cuba's Roberto Veiga [TRUD 26 Feb] 21
CSSR's Hoffman 21
Poland's Miodowicz [PAP] 24
SRV's Pham The Duyet 25
TU Delegate Interviewed on Precongress Topics 27
[Bratislava PRAVDA 25 Feb]
TRUD Cites 26 Feb Congress Proceedings [27 Feb] 29
'Self-Critical Analysis' 30
SFRY TU Official [TANJUG] 30
Bulgaria's Dyulgerov Speaks [Sofia TRUD 27 Feb] 31
TRUD Cites Romania's Dobrescu [27 Feb] 33
TRUD Reports 27 Feb Congress Proceedings [28 Feb] 33
Foreign Delegates Address 27 Feb Session 35
DPRK's Kim Pong-chu Address [TRUD 28 Feb] 35
Afghanistan's Delegate [TRUD 28 Feb] 36
Delegates Address 'Critical Remarks' to 'Leading Bodies' 36
Amendments to Rules Approved at Congress 37
Nicaraguan Delegate Addresses Congress 28 Feb 38
TV Covers Shalayev's Closing Address 38
Congress Passes Resolution on AUCCTU Report [TRUD 1 Mar] 43
Polish, Cuban Delegates Meet With Press 60
Miodowicz at Press Center [PAP] 60
Cuba's Veiga on TU Movement [Havana Radio Reloj] 60
Veiga on Foreign Debt [Havana Radio Rebelde] 61
Gaspar Comments on Congress Before Leaving [MTI] 61
PRAVDA Editorial Hails AUCCTU Congress [2 Mar] 63
TRUD Editorial Discusses New TU Statutes [6 Mar] 66

FURTHER ON GORBACHEV ADDRESS AT 18TH AUCCTU CONGRESS

TASS Russian Version

LD261711 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0740 GMT 25 Feb 87

["Restructuring -- The People's Vital Cause. Speech by Mikhail Gorbachev at the Congress of Soviet Trade Unions" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (TASS) -- We are transmitting the full text of the speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the 18th Congress of the Soviet Trade Unions.

Comrades, delegates!

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, I greet your congress and, in your person, I greet all the working people of the Soviet land.

Exactly a year ago, on 25 February, the 27th CPSU Congress began its work here, in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses. This was a revolutionary congress for the destiny of our motherland for the future of socialism. It gave a broad and fearless analysis of the practice accumulated in building a new society, and worked out a mobilizing course for the socioeconomic intensification of the country and the struggle for the ideals of peace and humanism.

A month ago, the January plenum of the party Central Committee took place, which gave us a substantially more profound understanding of the situation which has come about, gave specific expression to the tasks of restructuring across the entire front of the political activity of the party and people, mapped out a comprehensive concept of the democratization of social life, and gave a mighty impulse to the process of eliminating everything which still holds back revolutionary transformations.

Just over a week ago, a meeting was held in the Kremlin with participants of the forum, For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity. As you know, the political and moral bases of the foreign policy strategy of the Soviet state, its approach to the global problems of mankind and, above all, to the main problem of how to preserve life on earth, were expounded before this representative and authoritative audience.

These events are a reflection of the tense rhythm of our time, a time of great undertakings, of reevaluation of values and of strengthening hopes, of social enthusiasm and the uncompromising struggle between the new and the old. It is a difficult time, but an unusually interesting one, a time when society is gaining confidence in its strength, a time of people's growing civic maturity and patriotic restlessness. We are convinced that both the practical work of your congress and the decisions adopted by it will be permeated with the spirit of our time.

A year is, on the whole, a short period. However, in its social richness, the past year has contained a great deal. At the same time, we understand today that what has been done is merely the very first step: The main part -- and that means the most difficult -- lies ahead. So far we have predominantly been preparing for restructuring.

FURTHER ON GORBACHEV ADDRESS AT 18TH AUCCTU CONGRESS

TASS Russian Version

LD261711 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0740 GMT 25 Feb 87

["Restructuring -- The People's Vital Cause. Speech by Mikhail Gorbachev at the Congress of Soviet Trade Unions" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (TASS) -- We are transmitting the full text of the speech by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the 18th Congress of the Soviet Trade Unions.

Comrades, delegates!

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, I greet your congress and, in your person, I greet all the working people of the Soviet land.

Exactly a year ago, on 25 February, the 27th CPSU Congress began its work here, in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses. This was a revolutionary congress for the destiny of our motherland for the future of socialism. It gave a broad and fearless analysis of the practice accumulated in building a new society, and worked out a mobilizing course for the socioeconomic intensification of the country and the struggle for the ideals of peace and humanism.

A month ago, the January plenum of the party Central Committee took place, which gave us a substantially more profound understanding of the situation which has come about, gave specific expression to the tasks of restructuring across the entire front of the political activity of the party and people, mapped out a comprehensive concept of the democratization of social life, and gave a mighty impulse to the process of eliminating everything which still holds back revolutionary transformations.

Just over a week ago, a meeting was held in the Kremlin with participants of the forum, For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity. As you know, the political and moral bases of the foreign policy strategy of the Soviet state, its approach to the global problems of mankind and, above all, to the main problem of how to preserve life on earth, were expounded before this representative and authoritative audience.

These events are a reflection of the tense rhythm of our time, a time of great undertakings, of reevaluation of values and of strengthening hopes, of social enthusiasm and the uncompromising struggle between the new and the old. It is a difficult time, but an unusually interesting one, a time when society is gaining confidence in its strength, a time of people's growing civic maturity and patriotic restlessness. We are convinced that both the practical work of your congress and the decisions adopted by it will be permeated with the spirit of our time.

A year is, on the whole, a short period. However, in its social richness, the past year has contained a great deal. At the same time, we understand today that what has been done is merely the very first step: The main part -- and that means the most difficult -- lies ahead. So far we have predominantly been preparing for restructuring.

We have worked out its strategy, selected the main routes, exposed everything which stands in the way and demands correction, and determined starting positions. Now we must launch restructuring in practice. The year 1987, which has begun, will be decisive in many respects, for today the fate of restructuring is being decided in essence and the foundations for intensification are being laid. Restructuring, as was stressed at the Central Committee January Plenum, is no longer just an idea, but reality. It is seizing the masses, which means it is operating, working for socialism and for the renewal of our society. We are now sowing on barren soil, because you cannot produce anything worthwhile on barren soil. We have something to be proud of and on which to lean; we have great assets which we set higher than anything else. Behind us there is that most great revolution, which sharply changed the course of events in our country and the world, and imposed an indelible impression on the fate of mankind. Behind us there is the huge, varied experience of the practical implementation of socialism, which has not yet been finally interpreted, and to which we must constantly turn, learning to solve in a Leninist manner the problems produced by life. Behind us there is a huge economic, scientific-technical and intellectual potential, created and being augmented by the energy and talent of all the peoples of our great country.

Yes, Comrades, we have traveled a long, difficult and heroic road. Through all the hardships, we have upheld the people's revolutionary spirit and belief in socialism and in its supreme justice. We have coped, we have overcome everything and we have surmounted all. We have managed to effect the unprecedented leap from the plow and the pine-splinter [used as a torch to light the peasant's hut in the past] into space. We have experienced an incomparable joy -- the joy of great accomplishments.

The indissoluble link between labor and the citizen's concern for the good of all, which binds together all generations of Soviet people, our patriotism, labor pride, worker's enthusiasm, and the sacred feeling of involvement in the great cause of October are the enormous gains of our system, without which it is simply unthinkable.

It is precisely the laborer and, above all, the working class, with its faithfulness to revolutionary traditions, that is the principal driving force behind today's transformations. Industriousness has always been a supreme moral value of our people, and skill has invariably been one of man's major merits.

Today too, we have true masters of their craft -- those who set the standard and from whom one can learn how to work -- such people as Vladimir Matveyevich Gvozdev, a team leader at the Raspadskaya Mine of the Yuzhkuzbassugol Association in Kemerovo Oblast; Nina Nikolayevna Scherbakova, a weaver at Moscow's Trekhgornaya Manufaktura cotton combine; Vyayno Aleksandrovich Saar, a team leader at the Tallinstroy trust; Razifa Salikhovna Khanova, a milkmaid at the Karl Marx Kolkhoz in the Bashkir ASSR; Valeriy Makarovich Kolesnikov, an operator in the rolling mill of the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine; and Yevgeniy Petrovich Razmyatov, leader of a mixed-skills team at the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy commercial port.

These and thousands of other names have been pushed to the forefront of our time -- the time of revolutionary acceleration. The people have called such people the Stakhanovites of restructuring. I think the name is a good one. We have people like that everywhere, in many labor collectives.

All that is needed is that, with every passing day, there should be more and more people striving for the renewal of society and for restructuring, and who strive through innovative, conscientious labor rather than by words and assurances.

Naturally, we all want changes for the better to occur as quickly as possible. The lofty aims submitted by the party, and the growing changes in the economy and the social and political spheres have led to what may be called "a revolution in expectations." Many people display impatience and want a rapid social and material return. I am making this judgment also from the impressions gained in recent meetings with working people in Latvia and Estonia. We shall be frank [otkrovenno], Comrades. There is only one way by which we can achieve intensification and a rise in the quality of our entire life: by efficient and highly productive labor. No distribution or redistribution mechanisms can create anything in themselves.

Yes indeed, we must perfect much in the system of managing the national economy and in the social, political and ideological spheres. As you know, this work is being carried out and will be continued. There is a need to work seriously on labor ethics as a whole.

The Central Committee January Plenum spoke directly about the responsibility of the party and its leading organs for the state of affairs in the country. That is probably only one aspect of the matter, although a very important one.

There is another aspect. It is no secret that many people found it convenient, and some continue even today to find it convenient, to work, as the saying goes, with their sleeves down without deserving their salary, without meriting their bonuses, in an atmosphere of mutual lack of demandingness, absence of monitoring and irresponsibility.

It should be clear that for our just material and social expectations to be realized, time, effort and practical actions are needed. Restructuring means increasing the return of each individual in his locality -- each worker, kolkhoz farmer, office worker, engineer, scientist, teacher, minister and party worker. That is the actual position, by no means everywhere and by no means always.

In evaluating positive changes achieved last year at the Central Committee January Plenum, we said that they were a reflection of the great support by the Soviet people for party policy and its course toward restructuring. The start of the year has shown that positive changes have not yet become a steady trend of economic development. Starting last November difficulties accumulated in the metallurgy, chemicals and electronics industries. Attention was not paid to this either in the ministries, or at the USSR Gosplan or at the USSR Gossnab. Indeed, workers at many enterprises in these industries failed to begin correcting in good time the situation which had occurred.

Certain organs of economic leadership, both among those at the center and local ones, were unable to make work run smoothly in conditions of increased demandingness on the activity of enterprises and associations during the transition to new methods of management.

The situation is now being corrected but one cannot expect work to be easy in the subsequent period either.

The party Central Committee is counting on the understanding of the working class and all working people for the importance of the successful fulfillment of the plans, which have been outlined for the cause of intensification and on a growing contribution to the development of the economy.

Today, we want to radically change the situation in society, for we cannot be satisfied with how we used to live or how we used to work. We shall make no headway unless we completely overcome the forces of inertia and braking which are dangerous, in that they may once again envelop the country in a state of stagnation and lethargy, which threaten ossification of society and social corrosion.

Here I should like to once again dwell on the ideas of the January plenum. We passed through the April 1985 plenum. Naturally, it was not a fortuitous phenomenon. The plenum was able to express what was being comprehended and accumulated in society. It provided a critical analysis of the state of affairs in society and pronounced itself in favor of working out the concept of intensification. When we saw the reaction of the party and the people to the ideas of the April plenum, we were sure we had correctly determined and expressed the urgent needs of society. After the April plenum, we held a major conference in June on questions of scientific and technical progress, on the basis of which we worked out important programs for the development of machine-building and a number of other sectors of the national economy, and we outlined measures to improve the economic mechanism, including measures on the management of groups of interconnected sectors of the economy. All this became the starting point for forming, on the basis of the April plenum, the concept of the 27th congress. It [the concept] is well known to you, Comrades. After the congress, the task arose of translating the strategic line for the intensification of the country's social and economic development into practical deeds.

Previously, as you know, quite a few good decisions were also adopted to uplift the economy, but the problem was that they were not fully implemented and were frequently slowed down where action was needed. The CPSU Central Committee understood there would be no intensification unless we began to restructure public life and made the whole atmosphere in the country, in the party and in society more healthy. Then, there also arose the question of preparing a Central Committee plenum that would elaborate the theory of restructuring and determine the tasks of personnel policy at the new stage. That was the main purpose of the January plenum. Its preparation turned out to be a difficult matter. Suffice it to say that three times we postponed the start of the plenum, since we could not go to it without having clarity on all issues. We had to deepen the analysis of the situation that preceded April, derive lessons from it and -- most important of all -- propose what should be done to ensure the restructuring proceeded vigorously and did not come to grief. It was necessary to replace the braking mechanism with a mechanism for intensification and restructuring.

If, at that plenum, we had confined ourselves to merely acknowledging shortcomings and difficulties and had not proposed specific directions for restructuring, then little or any value would have emerged from such a plenum. We had already spoken in general at the congress about the state of society prior to April. At the January plenum this analysis had to be deepened, not so much for the purpose of giving an assessment of the past, but rather to determine what to do today and tomorrow.

We were obliged to answer the main question that concerns everyone: How is the restructuring to be made irreversible? How could we ensure the mistakes were not repeated?

The Central Committee Politburo came to the simple conclusion that restructuring would go into a skid unless the main character -- the people were thoroughly involved in it, in the economic sphere, in the social sphere, in the political sphere and in the spiritual sphere. To make restructuring irreversible and to rule out any repetition of what happened in the past, it is necessary to place everything under the control of the people. To carry out these tasks, it is necessary to deepen democracy. That is clear. Before the January plenum, everyone was concerned with the question of whether the process would come to a halt.

Wherever I have been people have invariably thought it necessary to say: Do not stop, it is necessary to continue to act. One could feel a fear that restructuring might grind to a halt.

Recently I had a meeting with journalists and writers and they expressed an interesting thought: It was only the January plenum which provided the firm conviction that restructuring had become irreversible. This has now strongly activated the position of many sections of the population, for indeed, there were still many who were waiting and observing. Now they are going over to the ranks of the active participants. People are now coming out solidly, as the saying goes, in favor of restructuring.

What is the matter here? Hitherto we were at the stage of working out the concept of socioeconomic development -- the April plenum, the 27th congress, the June plenum -- but now the process of restructuring has gone from the summit of elaborated ideas deep into practice: in one instance through state acceptance; in another through self-recouping, self-financing; in a third instance through appointment by election; in a fourth through supervision, openness, criticism, and so on.

Restructuring has deeply affected the people and it appears it is impinging on the interests of many people.

It is necessary to work in a different manner at every workplace. Not only at the works, in the kolkhoz, but also in the raykom, in local government organizations and in institutions. However, people will not be paid more for this, except, of course, in those cases where there is piece-work.

Yesterday someone sat in an office and thought he was working, but today they say to him: Go to a labor collective and elucidate with the workers the tasks of the day, mobilize people's consciousness, activate their civic position.

Yes, this atmosphere of openness clearly shows who is who, not from the viewpoint of what office they hold, but in their attitude toward restructuring.

In general, restructuring impinges on everyone: members of the Central Committee Politburo, members of the government, workers, kolkhoz farmers, the intelligentsia. It impinges on everyone.

If some decision or other impinges on the interests of everyone, then it is apt to recall V.I. Lenin and how he fought, for example, for the Brest [Litovsk] peace. At that time even a section of the working class came out against that proposal. His opponents in the Central Committee cited the position of that section of the working class.

The essence of Lenin's reply was that there are fundamental class interests and there are immediate class interests. It is necessary to orient oneself toward fundamental interests.

This is a very important thesis.

Our restructuring is in accord with the fundamental interests of Soviet society. It should reveal the potential of socialism, move society to new heights, and facilitate the attainment of a new quality of life in all spheres -- economic, social and spiritual. It is in accord with our fundamental interests. If in some way it impinges on you and me today, then we must calmly sort everything out, make an objective assessment of the situation and make an assessment in the interests of what needs to be done.

To solve the tasks facing society, the party should have enough political experience, theoretical capacity and maturity. It is absolutely essential to move ahead. Should the restructuring process be stifled, the consequences will be far more serious.

The work is now going ahead under party leadership. The prestige of the CPSU is growing. How many good things are now being written and spoken with regard to restructuring, with regard to the policy aimed at intensification.

I am speaking to you frankly [otkrovenno] in the way we usually speak in the Politburo, looking one another in the eye. I want you to have complete understanding of this question.

If I am convinced of anything it is that we are not moving away from socialism but developing and strengthening its potential. We are not moving away from democracy but toward a development of democracy in the interests of the working people.

So then, tell me, are we to give up all of this? Give up socialism, give up the interests of the people just to please those who are troubled by restructuring, made to think and act in a new way? This would no longer be a policy but the serving of someone's interests and ambitions. We will not agree to such an approach and our society will not agree to it either.

The Soviet people have vast social and political experience, comrades.

Who can be elected to the soviets, to be team leaders or directors of enterprises? Only communists and nonparty workers. What have we to fear here? In general, we must get rid of preconceptions.

A huge intellectual potential has been created in the country. The generations who are acting and assuming responsibility today are generations who were born and who grew up under socialism. Socialism is the system of the working people. Everything happening in a socialist state is the concern of the people. This is why openness is necessary. We support openness [glasnost]. This should not be a campaign, but a norm. We are in favor of criticism and self-criticism. This must equally be a norm of our life.

There can be only one criterion: Criticism and openness should be based on truth. What have the opponents of criticism armed themselves with now? With the fact that press articles, in individual cases, contain inaccuracies or sensations. This plays into the hands of those who fear criticism and openness. In everything else, such acute and strong forms of democracy as openness, criticism and self-criticism are necessary. This opinion which we hold in common was expressed at the plenum. We need to deepen socialist democratism consistently and persistently.

This is the main means and a reliable one, the key prerequisite for implementing radical transformations in all spheres of life in society. That is a guarantee against a repeat of past mistakes, and thus a guarantee of the irreversibility of restructuring. The extension of democratization may lead some to ask: Are we not disorganizing society? Are we not weakening management? Are we not lowering the demands for discipline, order and responsibility? This is an extremely important question. On this point we must all be perfectly clear. Democracy is not opposed to order. On the contrary, it is an order of a higher level, based not on unthinking obedience and blind performance, but on the participation, with full rights and with initiative, of the members of society in all affairs. Democracy is not the opposite of discipline. On the contrary, it is conscious discipline and good organization of the people of labor, at the root of which lies a sense of being the real master of the country, collectivism and the solidarity of the interests and efforts of all citizens. Democracy is not the opposite of responsibility; it does not mean there is no control and everything is permitted. On the contrary, it is self-control on the part of society, based on trust in the civil maturity and understanding of social duty on the part of Soviet people. It is the unity of rights and obligations.

The deepening of democracy is, of course, not a simple matter. There is no need to fear that all will not immediately go smoothly. There will be, if not abysses, then pitfalls. Ours, however, is a mature society, a strong party. The socialist system rests on the very strong foundation of the people's support. It draws its strength precisely from the democratism of our life. The more democracy we have, the faster we will progress along the path of restructuring, socialist renovation, and the more order and discipline there will be.

So the question today is this: Either we have democratization or we have social inertness and conservatism. There is no third way here.

Occasionally one hears, it is true, such things as: Are the masses, the labor collectives and the public organizations prepared for a broadening of democracy, for extensive openness? If you try to get to the bottom of it then as a rule you see those who are speaking are those who find restructuring not to their liking for some reason, that it impinges on them and makes increased demands on them.

There is nothing unexpected here. The process of restructuring, as I have already said, embraces more and more new spheres of life in society, affects the interests of all social groups, and because it is inherent in really revolutionary transformations, some people are inspired by restructuring, and are given fresh strength, some are plunged into confusion, and others find the changes taking place simply not to their liking. They are particularly not to the liking of those accustomed to taking things easy in their work, leaving everything to chance, who are indifferent, inert, and who are lacking initiative; Not to mention those who used the atmosphere of anything goes for embezzlement, for gain, cynically disregarding our laws and moral standards.

Such are the sources of the blind resistance to restructuring -- sluggishness in practical action and a desire to sit it out. I will say once again: There is here in principle nothing unexpected. On the contrary, it would be strange if restructuring suited everyone, honest and dishonest, toilers and shirkers alike. That would mean our policy was immature, not working, defective in some respects.

Here there is a political nicety which cannot be ignored: I have spoken about the mercenary opponents of restructuring. There is a certain dramatic element in that its opponents also include people who are selfless, honest, but who are still enslaved by old concepts, who have not recognized the acuteness and significance of the problems which face society.

We must influence them by persuasion, win their confidence by the justness of our cause, by the success of restructuring. It is our duty to help such people find their place in the common structure. For these are our people and we do not have the right to brush them aside, to let them fall behind by events.

I said recently that we need democracy not to smarten ourselves up for anyone, not for playing at democracy. We need democracy for altering much in our life, to give scope to people's creativity, to new ideas and initiatives.

Some people think democracy exists only for themselves, personally, that it does not extend to others, and they need only carry out orders. What sort of democracy is this!

Many leaders are striving to operate by old methods: While swearing allegiance to democracy they suppress criticism, restrain anyone who is too active, occasionally make slanderous accusations against him; they obstruct the inventive and dampen the zeal of the energetic. There are many ways of repressing democratic principles. It is sufficient to leaf through our newspapers to see the seriousness of this struggle.

We are not attaching great importance to the broadening and improving of the practice of electability. Elective principles will be firmly established at all levels -- from the primary party organization to the party Central Committee, from the team to the enterprise, association and trust. Experience of this kind is already being accumulated.

Nor can one omit mentioning that a certain cost is also in theory possible here. Cases can already be met with, for instance, when the most "convenient" rather than the most suitable person is elected team leader, foreman or other sort of leader. The kind of person who can "oblige" the management -- and at the same time will not upset his "fellows" -- at the state's expense, of course, and not out of his own pocket.

I think the cure in such situations is not a return to administration by injunction, but the use of the levers of openness and capacity for action by public organizations.

Comrades, everything I have said also applies, naturally, to the work of Soviet trade unions. Restructuring creates fresh prospects before them, and sets them fresh tasks.

What do the priority tasks of the trade unions appear to be in this regard? As far as I can see, this question is central in your discussion, in the report by Stepan Alekseyevich Shalayev and in the speech of congress delegates.

Allow me to express a number of views too.

These tasks and the ways of carrying them out run along two interconnected channels. One is the place of the trade unions in society as a whole, their constitutional rights and duties, mutual relations with the party, with the state and its bodies, ministries and departments and other public organizations. The other is the activity of the trade unions directly in workers' collectives, and their daily multifarious links with the masses, and with specific live people.

The new conditions in which the country is living and functioning, and the tasks which we are performing force us also to reinterpret the role of the trade unions in public life, precisely in public life as a whole and not only in its individual spheres, be this the economy, social matters, or people's rest and leisure.

In our country the trade unions have many rights and enjoy the respect of the working people and the support of the party and of state bodies. Opportunities probably exist for further broadening their role and importance, both from the viewpoint of their rights and the obligations of the reciprocal responsibility to society. As you may recall, this was mentioned at the 27th party congress.

The CPSU Central Committee January Plenum clearly stated that in setting a course toward fundamental democratization, we have in mind not some kind of break-up of our political system, but the aim is to fill all the cells of the social mechanism with profound democratic content and to breathe new life into them.

I see the role of the trade unions in conditions of restructuring primarily in that they must be a kind of counterbalance to technocratic tendencies in the economy, and they must work for an intensification of the social direction of economic decisions which are made. That means the trade unions must not only sanction the social sections of plans and drafts, but must also play an active part in drawing them up, and, where necessary, submit their own alternative proposals.

A certain amount of work in this direction has already been conducted. However, it is important to lend it a systematic character. Let me say more. The trade unions, on a state-wide scale, must be energetic advocates of the prevention of a discrepancy between the performance of production tasks and the development of the social sphere.

Comrades, it is necessary to join in this work energetically. On behalf of the party and its Central Committee I summon you to the development of initiative, to searching and creative work. If problems do exist which require legislative solutions, well, the road, as they say, is not closed here either.

The proposals of trade unions on this score invariably meet with the most sincere attention and interested support of the party and state leadership. No doubt, much that is useful and valuable can also be prompted by a study of the experience of work by trade unions in the fraternal countries of socialism and international trade union organizations.

The main thing here is the goals to which such work will be subordinated, its ultimate yield and its benefit to people and society.

Your congress is going to chart a broad program for the restructuring of the activities of trade unions in accordance with current demands.

We must fundamentally enhance their vigor and eradicate formalism, working in fits and starts, paper-pushing and timidity, and be persistent and consistent in practically satisfying the vitally important needs of Soviet people. To achieve this we must reorient our work on to man and put the real worker at the center of this work.

The range of trade union concerns is the very life of man, with all its joys and worries, emotions and hopes. So in resolving the vital questions of labor, health, living and relaxation of people, the opinion of the trade unions should resound convincingly and authoritatively. The most important thing is that this opinion should be the opinion of the working people themselves.

Just take, for example, one of our most burning issues, the problem of housing. It is well known that the party has set a very important social task: In the next three 5-year plan periods to supply virtually every family with a self-contained apartment or an individual house. We are increasing our efforts in all directions, both with regard to the state, and with regard to labor collectives. In 1986, some 5.2 million square meters of more housing were built than in the previous year. That increase is not the limit. Young people's residential complexes are being established. The construction of housing using the economic method is being extended.

It was mentioned at your congress, in particular, that the housing building workers in the Far East have decided to increase the output of parts for houses by 50 percent from the same production areas. One can only welcome such an initiative and wish those in the Far East success in implementing it.

As you know, last summer I had occasion to visit the Far East and see with my own eyes the acuteness of the housing situation. The housing situation in other regions of the country is no less acute. My trip to the Baltic region demonstrated that yet again. The main thing here is not so much money, but the capacity of the construction organization and the supply of the necessary material resources to the housing construction sector. Much in this respect mut be done by local bodies. This is already being done in a number of republics, oblasts, cities and rayons. The solving of the housing problem is a task for everyone and we must come down on it, all of us together, as the saying goes. All labor collectives need to act just as actively as the Gorkiy and Minsk auto workers, the Voskresensk chemical workers, and the Kuybyshev metallurgists. Placing real people at the center of attention, the trade unions must more persistently show concern for the most valuable capital -- the health of people, for effective medical service; labor protection, and safety techniques. The efforts in the struggle with drunkenness cannot be slackened.

Quite a few problems remain here. Year after year, losses of working time owing to a temporary incapacity for work continue to be collated "conscientiously" in our country. In industry alone they have been over ten times higher than the damage we get from absenteeism, stoppages and absences with the permission of the administration.

Now important decisions have been drafted on these questions. The trade unions must make their contribution to this great state cause.

Another thing: We have already said a lot about formalism in socialist competition, but there are hardly any changes to be seen. Surely we need competition today primarily to develop workers' creativity, initiative, competitiveness, talent, organizational art, and assimilation of front-ranking experience.

It is time to do in earnest what we have been talking about for years: reorient the system of socialist competition to cover indicators for quality, conservation of resources and the strict fulfillment of contractual deliveries. It is this sphere where there is no doubt about the priority role of the trade unions, and there is no need to await special instructions on this subject.

Start solving these questions, the onus is on you. Since this is the case, I will say immediately: The trade unions have become accustomed to the absence of real competitiveness, they have become accustomed to window-dressing, to an abundance of forms of competition in which a normal person can no longer find his way. Everything here is so confused. Sometimes you might even think that with the help of the trade unions some kind of "paper mill" has been set in motion in the sphere of competition, a paper mill capable of running regardless of whether there are competitors or not.

Competition must be brought back to reality; to the workshop, to the brigade. It must be subordinated to the solving of real, urgent tasks. It must get down to the business of the workers themselves, who have an interest in mastering the best experience and in perfecting their work and themselves.

In brief, Comrades, you have more than enough concerns. In conditions of the consistent democratization of society, the role of the trade unions will be steadily raised and their responsibility will grow for the implementation of economic and social policy.

Their educational tasks will also become more complex and varied. To continue the topic of what sort of role the trade unions should have in today's conditions, I should like to say this:

The fate of restructuring is not decided in offices, but in the practical affairs of labor collectives. The labor collective is the focal nucleus of restructuring. In the final analysis, everything depends upon the mood, and how work will proceed along the new lines. This is essentially the problem of what a person's real position is in his collective and, thereby, in our society as a whole: how his work is organized, how productive he is, how he is paid, how far the results of labor are linked to the degree to which a person's requirements are satisfied, how relations between work comrades, allied workers, managers and subordinates at all levels are shaping up. There is a quite simple and clear correlation here: The way things go in labor collectives will be mirrored in the way they proceed in society as a whole.

If you manage to organize highly-productive labor and guarantee a high quality of output, the entire country economy will be given a boost. If there is order and good organization in collectives, they will exist throughout society. If we can all learn together to build normal, human relations in the collective, and if we can improve the moral and psychological climate, the entire social atmosphere in the country will accordingly be equally healthy.

The party Central Committee attributes a great deal of importance to the Law on State Enterprises (Associations), the draft of which has been submitted for nationwide discussion. The draft law contains what is essentially a new ideology of economic management. It is designed to make a radical change in the conditions and methods of economic management, mainly on the level of the economy, and to reinforce by legislation the combination of the planning principle and full financial autonomy in enterprises' activities, to reinforce independence and accountability and to legalize new forms of self-management.

I shall also cite measures of a principled nature such as the formation of the first 20 or so inter-industrial scientific and technical complexes; the introduction of new principles for increasing wages in production industries; the transfer to state acceptance of output at 1,500 leading enterprises; assimilation of two- and three-shift work in a number of production collectives; the broad development of cooperative forms in the sphere of production and services; and the spread of family and collective contracting.

One could continue this list.

As you see, transformations are proceeding broadly and steadfastly, and yet work in the new manner is still only just unfolding. If we think of the production activity of the labor collective, then probably the main changes here will be determined by the restructuring of the economic mechanism which has started and the transition to financial autonomy, self-financing, self-recouping and self-management But, Comrades, these measures will start working properly only when they are perceived in each labor collective, not as something imposed from above, but as their own, intimate and vital concern. Who, if one thinks about it, has a vital need of financial autonomy, and for whom is it beneficial? For those who labor honestly. The country, and ultimately every working family and every working person needs it. For whom is financial autonomy dangerous? The bureaucrat, for it shows him in his true colors; the chatterbox, for it shows up his inadequacy at once; the slacker and the shoddy worker, for it strikes at the very foundations of their parasitic prosperity, which is achieved at the expense of society and which costs all honest workers dear.

We all must adopt a new approach to understanding the role of the labor collective, both in the life of Soviet society, at work, and in the life of each person. Who, apart from the labor collective, can see properly the public face of every person and determine the measure of social justice not in general or as a whole, but specifically and, so to speak, by name? Who knows best of all where the possibilities have been exhausted or where significant reserves still lie hidden? Where and by whom is everything that is possible honestly carried out, and where have the norms begun to work in a careless manner? Finally, where can a person display his rights and the obligations of the genuine master, other than in his collective and at his place of work?

I think the experience of recent time has shown absolutely unambiguously that a refusal to take up an active position in life costs dearly not only for society as a whole, but also for each person individually. I shall tell you straight; We shall not change this situation until every person feels a personal need for this and personal responsibility and feels himself to be master. I should like, Comrades, in particular to stress the following state of affairs: In the present situation of "financial autonomy." labor collectives and trade unions are becoming a strong partner of the state in the implementation of social programs. I think the AUCCTU and the republic trade union councils could today make broader use of the right of legislative initiative in the interests of working people and, where necessary, resist more energetically attempts by economic bodies to encroach upon the prerogatives of labor collectives.

It is not good enough when production plans are changed without the consent of the trade unions, when the means available in the economic incentive funds are withdrawm, or when other malpractices are tolerated. Trade unions should not accept such a situation.

Obviously worthy of attention is the AUCCTU proposal on granting trade unions the right to halt the implementation of decisions adopted without their knowledge concerning conditions and payment for labor and the pattern of work and free time; and to play an active part in working out a policy for prices of various goods and for tariffs on services. They must have the opportunity to act with equal decisiveness in cases where projects designed for social purposes and for protection of the environment are excluded from pre-commissioning complexes and enterprises under construction.

Speaking of this, one cannot but draw attention to the following phenomenon: Many trade unions still seem to be in the second echelon, as it were, where restructuring is concerned, and this includes spheres as important as the protection of workers' interests and the defense of social justice. Take the matter of labor payment. We have begun some serious restructuring in this sphere. Moreover, it is not a matter of a campaign or a one-time event, but of a principled line toward eliminating wage-levelling. This is an important political issue, Comrades. Labor and labor alone should be the measure of a man's worth, of his social prestige and material well-being. This means every conscientious worker and everyone who is truly expert at his job should be fully remunerated for their work, without any artificial limitations. Moreover, in conditions of financial autonomy, self-financing and self-recouping, the sources of wages and material incentives depend on the profits made by enterprises and the income earned. Their distribution is essentially at the disposal of the labor collective.

Now let us ponder upon the following matter: Are trade unions doing everything possible to have an active influence on the wages policy? You know better than I. Many enterprises are still not in any hurry to abandon wage-levelling. The administration is not in any hurry either, because this is a troublesome matter, requiring restructuring and reorganization of production and introduction of order into the setting of labor norms. The trade union committee also wants all too often to live a quiet life, without upsetting anybody.

No, Comrades, it is time to end this kind of "shyness." Some people will have to be offended. The idlers, drunks, sloppy individuals -- there is no need for them to become incensed -- people get the honor they deserve. However, on the other hand, let us elevate, both materially and morally, the working man who works conscientiously; and the trade unions should stand up for his interests with all their might.

I have to say the trade unions have not properly involved themselves in a matter as important as the transfer to two- and three-shift working either. This matter is exceptionally necessary and economically important. Our fixed preoduction assets are not fully harnessed -- they are essentially standing idle -- in industry alone, to the tune of R100,000 million. The problem is, however, that all too often the introduction of a multi-shift system at enterprises has been approached in a bureaucratic manner, without paying any attention to the organization of production work, or the provision of meals for workers, or the work of city transport, or any other important issues of everyday life. In other words, it's the same old bureaucratized, administrative approach. It is legitimate to ask: Where were the trade unions? Why did they permit a failure to take account of the interests of the working man?

I think that in conditions of growing economic independence, work collectives will be demanding that trade union activists be both more principled and more vigorous in the use of the rights which the trade unions possess.

Incidentally, you do have them. You have the right to monitor the implementation by management of their agreements and contracts; you also have the right to criticize the actions of economic managers if they run counter to the legitimate interests of the working people. Of course, in raising the demands made on trade union officials, we must also display the utmost attention and sensitivity to them and give them support. Trade union committees must be, I would say, a genuine partner and not always a comfortable one for the management. They must consistently defend the interests of the working people. Bad working conditions at many enterprises, poor medical services, bad rest rooms -- the trade union organizations in many places, we shall be frank have got used to all this.

Defending the legitimate rights and interests of the working people means making bold use of your huge potential, squabbling when necessary to achieve a correct decision. In concluding the talk on internal affairs, I want to remind you of the words of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin: "We must aim to ensure that all trade union members, to a man have an interest in production and understand that it is only by increasing output and raising labor productivity that Soviet Russia will be in a position to conquer." (Vol 42 p 143)

This is how V.I. Lenin put the question in 1920. This is also how we are putting it today in conditions of new revolutionary changes. The time now is such that unprecedented opportunities are opening up for better working with greater return, for vigourously building a better future, taking account of all our very rich experience, and utilizing all our not inconsiderable potential. So, let us act, Comrades!

Now, about international affairs.

These questions are connected in the most direct way with the progress of our internal development. We have to spend a lot of time on them. The situation in the world, as you know, has over the past few years been, and remains, far from simple. The main thing, the most important thing in it are the attempts by imperialism and the forces of reaction to slow down, at any cost, our future progress, and to force us to remain on the rails of military confrontation. Our party sees its main internationalist duty, as the 27th congress stressed, as the successful advance of the country along the path created by October. This is the strict yardstick by which we are obliged to measure each one of our steps; this is the viewpoint from which we must approach an assessment of the tasks being submitted, the choice of policy, both within the country and on the international scene.

The words "restructuring" and "openness", especially after the January Plenum of the Central Committee, are being taken everywhere abroad as a sort of synonym for the words "progress" and "peace." Naturally, some -- our allies, friends and people of democratic views -- are following with hope, trust and great expectations how the face of our society is changing, and the style itself and atmosphere of our everyday life. Others -- political and ideological enemies -- are observing these processes, not without certain apprehensions or skepticism and not infrequently with animosity. It is characteristic, however, that despite these differences, everywhere abroad they have correctly identified the main theme: The new thinking, which the party has placed at the foundation of its course, is the answer of the CPSU to the challenge of the time, which requires a qualitatively different approach to the solution of tasks facing humanity at the end of the 2d millenium.

There are essentially two such fundamental tasks: to save the world from a nuclear catastrophe, and to put at the service of man the enormous potential of knowledge and of material and spiritual possibilities which he has at his disposal.

They are indeed vast, pressing and interlinked in the very closest manner. The party, in formulating its strategy of intensifying the restructuring, gave the example of approaching them from humanist, Marxist-Leninist positions. There was a special reaction to the Soviet proposals directed at eliminating weapons of mass destruction and at building a universal security system. Many of them are already "working", and have become the subject of dialogue and negotiations, bilateral and multilateral. As a matter of fact, we also tried to give a jolt to the start of a restructuring of interstate relations, to making them accord with the real tasks and requirements of our time. As a result, international life has become more dynamic. The trends toward seeking forms and means of deepening political, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation have gained strength.

True, one can hear opinions such as: This is all quite right, we warmly support the party's foreign policy, but there is just as much trouble in the world as before, the arms race is still pressing on, the nuclear threat remains a real one. U.S. imperialism not only does not want to disarm, but is increasing its offensive potential. Such an assessment of the state of affairs as this is on the whole true, but, I think, nevertheless incomplete. The situation in the world arena is indeed dangerous. The Soviet U.S. negotiations on nuclear weapons limitation are marking time, due to the fault of the U.S. leadership. Acute conflicts in various areas of the planet are fraught with great difficulties.

However, one must not fail to take account of something else: An abrupt turnabout has taken shape and is growing stronger in the atmosphere of international relations itself, in the moods of public opinion, in the attitudes of both common people and many statesmen, with regard to choosing a position on the main issue today: the issue of war and peace. This was also most manifestly confirmed by the Moscow forum, For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity. This was a most representative gathering of authoritative scientists, writers, artists, musicians, businessmen, public figures and churchmen from many countries, an assembly of people, the majority of whom were far from the socialist world outlook and some even occupying a conservative position on the fundamental political and social issues.

However, these people are united by one conviction: Consolidating a new way of thinking in international relations is the only capable way of erecting a barrier to nuclear war and make peace not only possible but inevitable. The forum has been an important event in international life, a barometer, I would say, of the mood of public opinion on the planet. The hands on this barometer firmly and unambiguously point to peace. There were indeed very heated disputes on how to move in this direction, how this or that problem should be resolved and there were essential differences in the approach to them. Well, this is natural. Discussions, criticism, counterposing of views — this, in fact, is the most reliable way to the truth. But, as far as I am aware, none of the participants of the Moscow meeting disputed the truth, that is, the necessity of preventing a catastrophe, of surviving and learning to live in a humane way.

It seems to me — and the forum indicates the same thing — that a new and very wide, heterogeneous but mighty movement is taking shape in the world, a movement for the survival of mankind. This is a good sign which bodes well. It engenders certainty for a victory of the forces of reason and good will over the forces of war and militarism.

The trade union organizations of various countries are also becoming increasingly active in the struggle against the nuclear threat.

The trade union movement is a great force in the modern world, one of the most important components in the movement for the survival of mankind. Combining the struggle for the interests of the working people with the struggle for peace and disarmament means that an understanding of the dangers threatening mankind is penetrating the consciousness of the masses with increasing clarity and depth. That is why it is so important for the trade unions to become involved in this struggle.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to welcome the numerous emissaries and representatives of trade unions of various countries and their international associations here at your congress.

I am convinced that the right to live in peace and to work in calm conditions is the prime and inalienable right of each person. There are no spoils to share out for the worker, the laborer and people like him. The arms race or war would bring him no profits, no dividends. Peace, cooperation and joint labor -- these are the conditions for his well-being and for the progress of society.

Peace and the security of the country are a concern not only for diplomats and politicians. The peace and security of the motherland are the concern of every one of us, of all Soviet people. I would like to stress this in particular, Comrades. Peace must be achieved primarily through one's daily work, in the factory, in the field, in the scientific institute.

The voice of the Soviet Union in favor of peace will resound in the international arena with greater volume and weight the better and more successfully we all cope with our tasks at home.

Nowadays, Comrades, we understand and know full well, that the concerted economic, political, psychological, and militarist attack, started by the forces of reaction at the end of the 1970s and at the start of the 1980s was dictated, along with other reasons, also by the state of our internal affairs. Now when the opponent's gamble on our backwardness has taken a serious shaking, imperialism is switching the emphasis on to something else: preventing the implementation of our plans for transformation, hindering them, slowing them down and foiling them by the arms race. For this purpose they are striving with all their might to retain world tension and to preserve in the world conditions which would make it possible, as before, to portray the USSR as the reason for all evils and misfortunes.

All that is as old as imperialism itself. There is nothing unexpected or new in principle in such behavior by reaction. Our response is clear. We have done and will continue to do everything that is necessary, to reliably safeguard our security and the security of our friends and allies, and to prevent anyone from being tempted to test the security of our borders. We will not take a single step over and above the demands and requirements of sensible, sufficient defense. We will not repeat without thought and in an automatic way whatever the imperialists may strive to impose upon us in the arms race. We are keeping all doors open, and we will continue to do so, for any honest steps to limit and reduce arms and to guarantee reliable monitoring of this process and to strengthen international security.

Our every step on the road of socialist renovation is also a victory for the forces of peace and progress and a defeat for the forces of aggression and militarism.

Thus, then, Comrades, do the issues which we set ourselves in internal politics combine in an unbroken whole with the issues that must be solved on the international scene. The tasks of intensification, the restructuring of socialist society, the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe, the demilitarization of the world and the humanizing of international relations make up the core of the strategic course of the 27th CPSU Congress, confirmed and rendered specific by the January Plenum of the Central Committee.

Permit me to assure you, Comrades, the party will not deviate from the course it has adopted. Relying on your support, and on the support of the workers, peasants, the intelligentsia and the whole Soviet people, it will continue to proceed resolutely, boldly and purposefully with this course along the road, the start of which was laid 70 years ago by the Great October Socialist Revolution.

I wish everyone successful work, and the delegates and visitors new glorious actions, health and good spirits.

Shalayev Thanks Gorbachev

LD251939 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0801 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Remarks by Stepan Shalayev, chairman of the AUCCTU, and by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the conclusion of the speech by Mikhail Gorbachev at the 18th AUCCTU Congress in Moscow -- live]

[Text] [Shalayev] Esteemed Mikhail Sergeyevich, allow me, on behalf of the congress, to express our sincere gratitude to you for your profound and very important speech and for the kind words addressed to the trade unions. The profound positions and conclusions, the frank [otkrovennyy] and critical notes and the kind advice expressed in your speech, Mikhail Sergeyevich, will help the trade unions of our country to renew more boldly all aspects of the life of the trade unions, to restructure themselves more quickly in their work, to increase their social potential, and indeed, to properly fulfill their functions of representing and defending the interests of the working class and of struggling for peace throughout the world. [applause] Thank you very much, Mikhail Sergeyevich, for your speech.

[Gorbachev] When I was speaking my only thought was how many speaker's time limits have I used up? This is undemocratic! But then I worked it out in my head that there are so many in the Politburo and I'm the only one speaking on behalf of the Politburo. [applause]

[Shalayev] And all the delegates! [applause]

CSSR, Romanian Reaction

PM021651 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS 27 February press roundup: "In Accord with the Peoples' Aspirations"]

[Excerpt] While carrying out the policy of restructuring all areas of society's life the Soviet Union is also keeping all doors open to any honest steps to limit and reduce armaments, ensure reliable verification [kontrol] of this process, and strengthen mutual international security. [paragraph continues]

This was the dominant theme of the responses of the mass media and public of various countries to the speech made at the 18th USSR Trade Union Congress by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Prague -- Every speech by M.S. Gorbachev is awaited with great interest in the world, the Czechoslovak newspaper PRACE writes. This is fully justified and logical, since they expound the most relevant program goals which determine the ways of implementing the tasks set by the 27th CPSU Congress and map out specific guidelines for Soviet diplomacy in international affairs.

Much of what the CPSU Central Committee general secretary said at the Soviet trade union congress directly concerns us Czechs and Slovaks. Czechoslovak working people regard his words as a call for a new way of thinking and for a concrete contribution on the part of everyone to the cause of restructuring.

Bucharest -- The Soviet Union is keeping all doors open to any honest steps to limit and reduce armaments, ensure reliable verification [kontrol] of this process, and strengthen international security, the Romanian Communist Party organ SCINTEIA points out. The tasks of speeding up the restructuring of socialist society, averting nuclear catastrophe, demilitarizing the world, and humanizing international relations, the newspaper stresses, form the core of the 27th CPSU Congress' strategic course, which was confirmed and given concrete shape by the January plenum. [passage omited]

Poland's Miodowicz on Speech

LD270045 Moscow International Service in Polish 1500 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Attending the 18th AUCCTU Congress in Moscow are guests from 134 countries, representing 188 national trade union federations, and 10 international organizations. Alfred Miodowicz, the head of the Polish delegation, the chairman of the All-Polish Trade-Union Accord, gave this statement to a Radio Moscow correspondent:

[Begin Miodowicz recording] This morning's deliberations, during which Comrade Gorbachev spoke, have been an important part of the congress. The general secretary was listened to with great attention. Most of the delegates did not merely follow his address; I also saw them sedulously taking notes. I won't conceal the fact that I too wrote down many points, since I consider them to be of a universal nature, and this is being said by the general secretary of the party, and aimed principally at the Soviet comrades.

I see no great difference between this and what we are saying. So, what are the issues? Above all the question of housing. This is a very important one to working people: health. Who is in favor of health? Working conditions, protection of the environment, and the work of the health services -- just as in our country. Here too, the second, the next topic for trade unions is the maintenance of the health of the work force; health-care, and concern for the health of every worker; the working family.

In so far as interpersonal relations are being dealt with, there was discussion of labor organization, of the fact that trade unions must be independent and have their own point of view on the contents of state plans, as well as of economic plans. This closely concerns the workforce as a whole, and thus is concerns social activity, the so-called work safety and hygiene, and the relation between work, productive work, and wages. We also talk about this.

Comrade Gorbachev also said in his address that it is of outstanding importance that trade unions have their own mature plan, their own vision of action for the sake of productive labor, and competition, as long as it can be submitted for appraisal, I would even say -- critical appraisal. It was said that criteria of quality ought to be introduced. The problems of quality of work, are very topical when one considers how many shoddy goods are produced. This applies to our country too.

So it was an interesting speech, of exceptionally interesting content, delivered in a very lively manner. Everybody was engrossed. Many of the participants in the discussion could refer directly to the speech. To me it represents a certain contribution to the comparison of the situation which, according to Comrade Gorbachev's appraisal, pertains to the Soviet Union, and as was appraised in our trades unions, in our work teams, - appraised by the trades unions at our trade unions congress.

I will refer once again to the speech by Comrade Gorbachev. Here I would cite one important phrase, in my view, of fundamental importance to trades unions about the need to link the functions of the trades unions in a responsible way with the work of the people in the work-places -- If we were speaking of a permanent bond, of not losing touch with the work place. I regard this phrase of his speech as of particular importance for the newly-elected authorities after the congress. [end recording]

Iravkin on Speech, Congress

LD251929 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] The delegates responded with interest to those proposals for an improvement in trade union work which were contained in the speech of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Just listen to what Comrade Travkin, manager of the Mosoblsekkhozstroy Trust Number 18, Hero of Socialist Labor, said from the platform at the congress:

[Begin recording] [Travkin] All of us, Comrades, see what efforts the party is making to stir the masses; to arouse each individual, and start all Soviet people on a decisive search. Today's speech by the general secretary is another confirmation of that. I believe our congress will be a powerful impulse which will arouse the colossal energy of the working class and the entire 140 million-strong army of the Soviet trade unions, and will channel that energy into serving restructuring.

On the eve of the congress two very important projects were put forward for universal discussion: The new rules of the trade unions and the law on the socialist enterprise. Both documents were published after the January plenum and are something of a logical extension. However, I, for example, have the impression that the January plenum went much farther in the democratization of life than is envisaged, for instance, by the draft law on the socialist enterprise. It sins with its excessive declarations. There are very many mere truisms there. But as regards specific rights of enterprises, in management and planning, the plans are not formulated clearly. What is meant by the control figure? Or what specific rights does a works, or a trust, have in forming a portfolio of orders from below? There is much here that has been left unsaid. It is far from harmless. Because sloppiness in the formulation could leave a loop-hole so that later on, with the aid of instructions, clarifications, and various clauses, the very essence of this law could be emasculated. It would not be the first time for us. We all know to what extent our ministries, the planning and finance bodies can forbid and not allow. Are there only a few people left now who dream, just so long as nothing changes?

In our opinion it is particularly vital to clarify completely the position on the councils of labor collectives. Most of the debate is over them. We workers from the 18th trust are often asked: How does the trade union committee live with the economic councils? And what about one-man management? And even here I've heard: Who should head the council of the labor collective? There are very many questions. What is there to be said? One can stand for a long time on the bank and consider the depth of the water. You won't trouble your legs, but you won't get across the river, of course. But one can... [Travkin pauses] Well, what can one do? We have almost 4 years of experience of the working of economic councils. And not once did the thought trouble us: Is there a contradiction with the trade union committee, or not? It never entered our heads. It is a part of trade union life. And when all is said and done, they were not born in the wilderness, these economic councils, but within that selfsame trade union.

Why am I dwelling for so long and fixing attention on economic councils? Because today there are mainly two points of view in existence. The first, public opinion has appeared. The first is -- we are awaiting a supplement to our rights. They've opened the gates to democracy. But we have plenty in the way of rights. The second worry is that democracy is a two edged word. Is it worth letting the genie out of the bottle? But today, the question is not how to let the genie or democracy out of the bottle, but how to winkle it out from there. [laughter and applause] We are talking about whether we can set up a mechanism to use this democracy. Those economic councils of labor collectives are that mechanism by which we can raise democracy and use it.

Restructuring is making us look differently from yesterday at many, even ordinary, things. Well, for example, at the age-old defense function of the trade union. And here at the congress we are talking a lot about this. Who does the trade union committee protect a worker from? Yesterday, no doubt you would have been surprised at the question being put that way. What do you mean? From whom? From what? From the boss. From the prejudices of the boss's opinion, from injustice on the part of the boss or of the administration. But today, in conditions of financial autonomy, self-recouping, self-management? From whom? From the labor collective that does not want to accept idleness, non-committed attitudes and slipshod work? Now the function of the trade union that is coming to the fore is that of concern to increase in all possible ways the labor contribution of each worker, for only in this is there today a source of all new blessings. If you don't earn it yourself, don't expect anyone to increase you wages or raise your basic salary. All this depends only on you yourself. There it is before your eyes, the main defense function of the trade union today.

And it is our restructuring that needs defending most of all against routine, bureaucratism, including that of trade union activity. Socialist competition -- is everything really all in order here? Mikhail Sergeyevich touched on this question very pointedly. Today we need to pursue the issue not of activating socialist competition, but of reviving it. [applause] But the economic councils -- the system of economic councils -- allows this to be done. The economic councils, as a part of trade union work, here set everything in its place. More openness, less (?bureaucratic organization). That is a pressing demand of life. And we have here a specific example. The example of the work of the Central Committee of our party. [applause] [end recording]

FOREIGN DELEGATES ADDRESS CONGRESS 25 FEB

Cuba's Roberto Veiga

PM041231 Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Feb 87 p 4

["Account" of 25 February speech by Roberto Viega, general secretary of the Trade Union Center of the Cuban Working People, at the 18th USSR Trade Union Congress in Moscow]

[Text] Those who, like us, are struggling for socialism, will regard the speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, as evidence of new hope and will hear his words as an incentive for decisive action and renewed energy, the speaker said.

Strong determination to make the maximum use of the vast potential inherent in socialism, historical optimism, faith in communist ideals and the Leninist spirit, political wisdom, and other features of renewal outlined by the historic 27th Congress of the Leninist party are inspiring discussion at this Soviet trade union forum, the speaker said. It is noteworthy that this congress has particularly stressed the need for radical renewal of trade union activity. Cuban trade unions are following the congress' work with great attention and interest. It is a source of useful experience for us.

Noting that just over a year ago the Third Cuban Communist Party Congress criticized the shortcomings hindering the development of the country's economy and leading to negative consequences and deformations in the social sphere, the speaker said that trade unions have become decisively involved in the progress of rectifying errors and in the struggle against negative trends.

Our country's trade unions are now waging an active struggle against any signs of formalism in their work and to improve socialist competition, strengthen labor discipline, increase labor productivity, and make the best possible use of all material and human resources.

The speaker emphasized the high level of development of Cuban-Soviet ties and cooperation between their working people, peoples, trade unions, governments, and parties. He noted that this cooperation has produced tangible results in all areas of life.

The Soviet trade union congress, the speaker stressed, is a banner of struggle which strengthens our faith in socialism's unquestionable superiority.

CSSR's Hoffmann

LD261642 Moscow International Service in Czech 1800 GMT 25 Feb 87

["Exceprts" of speech by Karel Hoffmann, chairman of the CSSR Central Council of Trade Unions at 25 February session of the AUCCTU Congress in Moscow -- recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades, dear Soviet friends. We are sincerely pleased to present you, the congress delegates, and all Soviet trade unionists with cordial and fraternal greetings from the Czechoslovak Central Council of Trade Unions and from the whole Czechoslovak Revolutionary Trade Union Movement. [applause]

I am glad to have the opportunity to speak in an atmosphere which has been so favorably influenced by the speech by Comrade Gorbachev, and to be able to greet you today, 25 February, the anniversary of Victorious February when the working class, headed by the CPCZ, definitively decided on Czechoslovakia's path to socialism and on our orientation toward close cooperation and alliance with the people of the Soviet Union. [applause]

We are pleased to be able to take part in the 18th AUCCTU Congress which grew out of Great October, and to witness the way in which the delegates representing tens of millions of trade unionists are responding and reacting to the CPSU policy of restructuring the economy, society, and all aspects of life in the land of the Soviets. We value the opportunity to be here and listen directly to the voice of the working people just as this time, 1 year after the 27th congress and immediately following the January session of the CPSU Central Committee, at a time when your country has surged into irrepressible motion along the path of restructuring and accelerating in fulfilling the bequest of October. We see it as symbolic that the CPSU and all the Soviet Union is welcoming the 70th anniversary of October with exceptionally important changes which will ensure the implementation of its revolutionary ideas. Through its peace-orientated foreign policy, in particular, and the comprehensive proposal for nuclear disarmament by the year 2000, it inherently builds on Lenin's peace decree and is bringing closer the time when the world will be rid of destructive weapons and the threat of war. Furthermore, by the strategy of speeding up the socioeconomic development of the Soviet Union, by its strong social policy and consistent promotion of social justice, the Soviet Union is aiming at a substantial increase in the living standards of the Soviet people and proving that socialism has no other objective than the well-being of the working people, that a country which has set itself such an objective cannot and does not have any interest in war, and that it sincerely wants and needs peace.

Finally, it raises the people to the level of true managers and direct rulers of the Soviet land, it is developing genuine socialist democracy and paving the way for informal and purposeful participation by the working people in management and for the people's control of all the affairs of society. Through all this, it confronts the socialist trade unions with the need to come to grips with the Leninist concept of the role of the trade unions in today's conditions, with today's totally new tasks, and with the restructuring of trade union work itself.

Dear friends, we are immensely enlightened and encouraged by the fact that the Soviet people today, just as in all its previous historic feats, is showing the depth of its understanding for the needs of revolutionary progress, its enormous and literally inexhaustible creative resources, and its deeply-rooted realization of its solidarity and responsibility for the future of mankind, the cause of socialism and peace.

Dear Comrades, I can tell you that the Czechoslovak working people look to the land of the Soviets with great hopes, and follow with approval the enormous upsurge of your revolutionary determination to carry out a fundamental restructuring of society. Such a broadly-based, comprehensive and bold restructuring, whose aim is to make use of the advantages of socialism to speed up socioeconomic development, is close to the hearts and minds of the working people of Czechoslovakia, because it also gives clear replies to our own questions and problems too. In particular I would like to stress that at the present time it gives a convincing response to the Czechoslovak experience.

In this connection it is impossible not to make mention of the January session of the Central Committee of our party in 1968, which was meant to begin the process of eliminating deformations of socialism and stagnation in the economic and political area, and lead to the surmounting of the growing crisis in the party and society. On that occasion however, the forces which were in favor of improving the situation were unsuccessful, and right-wing forces in alliance with the enemies of socialism began to influence the course of events in a completely opposite direction. This happened because the party was unprepared and the working people were not informed about the aim and essence of the struggle which was taking place, and in particular because the leadership of the party and state was weak and incapable of guiding this process in the interests of socialism. In this way, instead of correcting mistakes and errors, our country was faced with a direct threat to socialism. As we noted 15 years ago, at the 15th Congress of Soviet trade unions, with gratitude, the attempt at counterrevolution was thwarted only thanks to the internationalist assistance of the fraternal socialist countries. We recall this bitter experience of ours precisely because here there is a clear diametric difference: We view the current developments in the Soviet Union secure in the knowledge that this truly revolutionary process is being headed by the proven Marxist-Leninist vanguard of the Soviet people, the party of Lenin, with a strong and tanacious leadership which is mobilizing the working people into revolutionary action for the further development of socialism. This is also a reliable guarantee for us that restructuring, which is necessary not only in the Soviet Union, will be developed in the spirit of Great October, will strengthen socialism and democracy, will consolidate the socialist system and make it even more appealing for the broadest masses of the working people throughout our planet. It is therefore no surprise that the Czechoslovak people, which has become aware of the need for restructuring in Czechoslovakia too, follows your determination to carry out in full the process of restructuring with such keenness, deep understanding and full solidarity.

A particularly strong response has been caused in our country by the new style, the new thinking and new approaches which are being promoted with such boldness and determination by the leadership of the CPSU and the USSR in political life, and by the open and critical atmosphere, by the direct contact between the leaders and the working people, and by their language which is clear and understandable to all.

As trade unionists we also welcome the process of restructuring because it requires and at the same time enables the interests of the working people to be defended better. This was discussed in a very convincing and stimulating way here today by Comrade Gorbachev, who stressed among other things the fundamental importance of the further development and improvement of the activity of trade unions as an irreplaceable factor in restructuring, and as an organization whose mission is to defend the interests of the working people effectively and uncompromisingly. Your congress thus significantly enriches our understanding and strengthens our determination to cope with the demanding tasks of the current truly revolutionary process, one which is immensely important for the future. The main directions and goals in this respect will be set out by the forthcoming 11th all-trade union congress. However, even today we are concentrating our efforts on the decisive tasks of implementing restructuring, speeding up socioeconomic development in Czechoslovakia, and fulfilling the program of the 17th CPCZ Congress -- tasks in which the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement is actively involved.

Dear Comrades, we wish you from the bottom of our hearts every success in implementing the conclusions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 18th Soviet trade union congress. We are firmly resolved to wage, along with you and by your side, a determined struggle for restructuring, for socialism and peace, and for the interests and better life of the working people. [applause]

Poland's Miodowicz

LD260930 Warsaw PAP in English 2312 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow, Feb 25 -- Alfred Miodowicz, PUWP CC Political Bureau member and chairman of the all-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions OPZZ addressed the Soviet Trade Union Congress in its second day here today.

"The highest forum of the Soviet trade unions", stated the speaker, "is watched by the Polish trade unionists with great interest. Can it be otherwise, when great, brave and momentous changes in the Soviet Union's social and economic life are being carried out. This constitutes a great chance for the working class, for the nations of the Soviet Union, but I would like to strongly stress here, that this is our common chance -- a chance for the whole socialist family."

The OPZZ chairman assured the Soviet trade unionists that on the say to modernity, the breaking of old bureaucratic traits, the building of a programme for a better future, the Polish trade unions will fight with all consistency.

The speaker said: "Socialism must have one face -- social justice. This is the socialism Polish unionists are for. This is why the steps undertaken by the CPSU and its leader Mikhail Gorbachev, to make the Soviet Union more modern, meet with such great sympathy and support in the Polish society."

Wishing the Soviet unionists persistance and success on this road, Miodowicz, stressed that: "The Polish unionists, together with the whole society decidedly support the Soviet Union's peace and disarmament initiatives put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev."

"Today", continued the speaker, "When millions of people starve, live in poverty, when unemployment is rising, also in highly developed Western countries, we must openly say no, to financial exploitation, the sinking of dozens of countries by great capital. Trade unions must stand in the front line in the struggle with social plagues, the deterioration of the natural environment, the specter of an ecological catastrophe. Cooperation between all states and nations in solving these global problems constitutes the goal for politicians and all sober-thinking inhabitants of our planet. The leader of Poland, Wojciech Jaruzelski, presented his view-point on many of these issues at the United Nations forum, by presenting concrete initiatives. We want to participate in their realization, they are already being implemented in Poland," he added.

"In the agreement on the further development and deepening of the cooperation between the Polish and Soviet trade unions", Miodowicz continued, "we state, among others, that the fraternal relations between the workers of our two countries constitute an effective factor in the building of a socialist society. This is served ot only by the exchange of experience, but also through the realization of joint investment and technological undertakings. These create great possibilities of cooperation between worker crews including Polish and Soviet trade unionists."

The speaker then expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Soviet trade unions for their hitherto support for the Polish labour movement on the international forum.

"In Warsaw. we will soon be playing host to the leading trade union activists from all the continents during the 37th session of the World Trade Union Federation Bureau. We are convinced that this important evvent will favour the further strengthening of our trade union movement on the international forum", concluded the OPZZ chairman.

SRV's Pham The Duyet

BK270800 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Feb 87

["Text" of 25 February address by Pham The Duyet, secretary of CPV Central Committee, president of Vietnam Confederation of Trade Union, and head of the Vietnamese trade union delegation, at the 18th congress of Soviet trade unions in Moscow -- read by announcer]

[Text] The delegation of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions is greatly honored to convey to the delegations to the 18th congess of Soviet trade unions and to all Soviet working people the most cordial and fraternal greetings of the Vietnamese workers and trade unions.

The Vietnamese workers and people have always followed with great attention the changes currently taking place in the building of communism in the land of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which opened up for mankind the era of transition from capitalism to socialism.

We are elated at and admire the brilliant achievements scored in all fields by the Soviet working class and people, considering them an example and a source of inspiration for the Vietnamese people in the cause of socialist construction. We have followed with keen interest the reforms and accelerated socioeconomic development being carried out in the Soviet Union in keeping with the spirit of the 27th CPSU Congress and your efforts to achieve the great objective of doubling, by the end of the year 2000, your national productive potential and improving the quality of the Soviet working people's spiritual and material life.

We deeply understand the close relations between the might of the Soviet Union -- as well as each stride of the Soviet land and the world's process of development -- and the struggle of the people of various countries for peace and social progress and for friendship and cooperation among nations. It is precisely because of this fact that we regard your 18th congress as an important event in the political life not only of the Soviet trade unions but also of the trade union movements of other socialist countries and of the world trade union movement as a whole.

The summing-up report presented by the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union, the important speech delivered by Comrade Gorbachev at the congress, and the very lively addresses by various delegates have made a deep impression on every member of our delegation because of their highly demanding and self-critical character and because of your definitive breaking off with the outmoded practices, the sluggishness, and the inefficiency that are impeding the rapid development of communist construction in the Soviet Union. We are convinced that your congress will bring about far-reaching changes in the activities of the Soviet trade unions and make worthy contributions to educating and motivating the Soviet working class and people to successfully implement the resolution of the historic 27th CPSU Congress.

With this conviction, we sincerely wish the 18th congress of the Soviet trade unions, the largest organization of the Soviet workers and the most powerful vanguard of the world's trade union movement, brilliant success.

These days, in our country, broad changes are also taking place in the highly difficult and complex struggle for the building of a new economy, a new society, and a new type of people. In the light of the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress, the workers and people of our country are actively striving to successfully carry out two strategic tasks: successfully building socialism and firmly defending the socialist Vientamese fatherland. In the immediate future, we are making every effort to fulfill the 1986-1990 5-Year Plan with three targeted programs -- those of grain and foodstuffs, consumer goods, and export articles -- as its mainstay, to meet society's demands for food, to provide the people with ncessary consumer goods, and to quickly increase the value of exports.

We Vietnamese workers and people remember with deep gratitude the great, all-round, and effective assistance and cooperation the communist party, the government, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the working class, and the people of the Soviet Union have given Vietnam. We note with satisfaction that the multifaceted cooperation and friendly relations between the trade unions of the two countries, an integral part of the Vietnamese-Soviet friendship and cooperation, have ceaselessly consolidated and developed both in scope and scale over the past years, one of the vivid symbols of which is the Vietnamese-Soviet international socialist emulation movement that is developing widely with higher quality in all Vietnamese-Soviet joint projects and ventures in our country. This movement is motivating large numbers of Vietnamese and Soviet cadres and workers to strive for many achievements in construction and production to greet the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Having had to fight continuously for many years against the wars of aggression waged by imperialism and reactionary forces, we Vietnamese understand too well what independence, freedom, and peace means to nations. For this reason, the Vietnamese workers and people fully support the uniform program put forth by the Soviet Union to gradually eliminate nuclear weapons on our planet and eventually to be rid of them completely by the end of this century. We also fully support the new Soviet initiatives advanced in the important address of Comrade Gorbachev in Vladivostok aimed at turning Asia and the Pacific into a zone of peace and stability.

Together with the workers and people of fraternal Laos and Cambodia, the Vietnamese workers and people will resolutely struggle to firmly preserve peace in Indochina and to contribute to safeguarding peace in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world. We unreservedly support the stand of the SRV, the LPDR, and the PRK aimed at promoting the trend toward dialogue between the two groups of countries -- Indochina and ASEAN -- for the sake of a Southeast Asia of peace, stability, friendship, and neighborly cooperation.

We Vietnamese people fully support the SRV Government's proposal full of goodwill regarding its readiness to open talks with the PRC at any level, anytime, and anywhere to resolve problems related to Sino-Vietnamese relations, to normalize relations, and to restore the friendship between Vietnam and China.

Once again, we would like to wish the 18th congress of the AUCCTU fine success. May the friendship and all-round cooperation between the working classes and people of Vietnam and the Soviet Union last forever!

TU DELEGATE INTERVIEWED ON PRECONGRESS TOPICS

AU270938 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 25 Feb 87 p 6

[Interview given by Nikolay Travkin, director of Mosoblselstroy No 18 construction trust in Volokolamsk, to PRAVDA's "Permanent Moscow editor" Vladimir Jancura: "N. Travkin: We Reject Any Playing at Democracy" -- date and place not given; introductory passage by PRAVDA]

[Excerpts] It was 5 months ago that Mikhail Gorbachev criticized at the Krasnodar aktiv meeting the "toothless trade union organizations" and trade union functionaries who "nod their heads at everything said by the economic executive staff, instead of forcefully speaking out in the collective's interests." [passage omitted]

The current 18th Congress of Soviet trade unions should provide the largest mass social organization with an action program for the period of restructuring the society. Among the delegates I found Nikolay Travkin, hero of socialist labor and director of the Mosoblseltroy No 18 construction trust in Volokolamsk; he is well-known to our readers. I wanted to know his views on one of the most frequently discussed topics in the precongress discussion: the relationship between the new self-administration bodies of the working people on the one hand and the trade unions on the other.

[Jancura] In your trust the economic council consists of 10 percent of the work force, elected by ballot and resolving all vitally important issues in the collective. Is this not pushing the trade union organization and its plant committee into the background?

[Travkin] Not in the least. I have been saying from the beginning of all these debates: come and look; you will see that both the trade unions and the economic council have enough to do in the new situation. [passage omitted]

[Jancura] The new law on state enterprise is meant to adjust relations between the economic management, the trade union organizations, and the collective's self-administration bodies. What do you think of the draft law?

[Travkin] We have been impatiently waiting for this document; although we had the law on working collectives, it was difficult to apply it because of the more-or-less non-legal status of the enterprise. The new draft law translates into specific form the resolution adopted by the CPSU Central Committee's January session on the development of production democracy. In fact, what is our economic council? It is the agency of Soviet power in the enterprise. [passage omitted] In the course of 5 years all employees in our trust will have been members and will have directly participated in the management of production within the enterprise -- and thus also in state management, since ours is a basic link of the state...."

[Jancura] You, Comrade Travkin, are also chairman of the economics council. During the precongress discussion some of your opponents claimed that it is undemocratic for a head of an organization also to be head of the working collective's self-administration body.

[Travkin] True, they believe that this position should be held by a worker, or at least a production brigade leader. But in order to guide such a council as ours, one must concentrate all one's time and energy on this function; one must thoroughly analyze and weigh all economic, production, and social problems of the enterprise. [paragraph continues]

Do not forget that our council does not merely make suggestions, but also makes decisions! If a worker or brigade leader has the necessary qualities for successfully coping with this work, and is better equipped for it than the person now doing the work, then this worker must be made available!

[Jancura] But hundreds of Soviet enterprises already have well-functioning brigade leader councils, which are really headed by workers.

[Travkin] Mostly they function only on paper; or they have turned into discussion clubs which make no decisions.

[Jancura] Even the one in the Kaluga turbine-producing plant?

[Travkin] That one is an exception. It has a director general who is prepared to listen to the representatives of a workers collective. But another person would think: Am I perhaps less capable than worker Semenov? Such a person would not even deign to convene this so-called self-administration body. We reject such playing at democracy! Before every session of our council, which convenes twice a month, its chairman needs 2 whole days to conscientiously prepare himself for it. Like every other member, he only has one vote, and if he wants to convince the others of his truth, and to assert himself in the discussion, he can scarcely do less. I repeat: To appoint the director from above and to elect the council chairman from among the workers, is merely an illusory democracy -- just some tawdry glitter intended to blind the people.

[Jancura] Has it happened to you that you were outvoted?

[Travkin] Many times! For instance, they insisted on our recalling the chief engineer. I was defending him, for none of our experts has more experience than he has. The majority prevailed; and it was right. He was a great expert, but he could not lead people.

[Jancura] It is said that such self-administration is possible only in mature collectives. Do you agree?

[Travkin] No, I do not. I am convinced that both a collective and an individual mature more quickly under the conditions of self-administration in particular. [passage omitted] During the existence of our economic council, at least four worthy deputies have developed to stand in for me; they would be able to cope with the tasks just as well.

[Jancura] Self-administration is thus an excellent school of management. But what about the trade unions? Are they resigned to letting this mission go?

[Travkin] Why should they? They have to continue organizing such well-proven forms of the working people's participation in management as socialist competition. One just has to get rid of formalism. We all are now learning to live and work under the conditions of expanding democracy.

TRUD CITES 26 FEB CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS

PM271430 Moscow TRUD in Russian 27 Feb 87 p 1

[Unattributed "Information Report": "The 18th USSR Trade Unions Congress"]

[Text] The 18th USSR Trade Unions Congress continued its work yesterday, 26 February, in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow.

The delegates and guests greeted with applause Comrades P.N. Demichev, A.P. Biryukova, A.I. Lukyanov, V.P. Nikonov, and G.P. Razumovskiy.

Discussing the reports of the AUCCTU and the Central Auditing Commission, the delegates express the people's will to firmly follow the course mapped out by the party, and unaminously support the detailed program for the practical restructuring of all our life and the trade unions' priority tasks in this important matter set forth by M.S. Gorbachev in his speech at the congress.

The following comrades spoke at the morning session: I.I. Kostyukov, chairman of the Metallurgical Industry Workers Trade Union Central Committee, twice Hero of Socialist Labor P.V. Popov, team leader of an amalgamated timber procurement team at Tyumen Oblast's Komsomolskiy timber procurement unit; L.Kh. Rasulova, chairman of the Azerbaijan Republican Trade Unions Council; V.I. Mironenko, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; G.P. Trapeznikova, team leader at the Perm Mashzavod Imeni F.E. Dzerzhinskogo Production Association; A.K. Zitmanis, chairman of the Latvian Republican Trade Unions Council; Hero of Socialist Labor and Lenin Prize Winner Yu.A. Ovchinnikov, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences and chairman of the Central Council of the All-Union Voluntary Temperance Society; People's Doctor of the USSR K.V. Khachatryan, chief physician at the district hospital in the village of Garni, Abovyanskiy Rayon, Armenian SSR; E. Zhakselekov, chairman of the Kazakh Republican Trade Unions Council; K.T. Mazurov, chairman of the All-Union Council of War and Labor Veterans; Ye.I. Basov, navigator of a fishing vessel attached to the trawler fleet of the Kamchatrybprom Production Association; V.A. Kirillova, sales assistant at Store No 25 of the Promtovary Association in Ulyanovsk; and A.P. Dumachev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education.

The congress heard greetings from Henri Krasucki, secretary general of the French General Labor Confederation; Marcelino Camacho, secretary general of the Spanish Trade Union Confederation of Workers' Commissions; Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the Indian National Trade Unions Congress; and Antonio Pizzinato, secretary general of the Italian General Confederation of Labor.

The following comrades spoke at the evening session: Hero of Socialist Labor A.Yu. Ishlinskiy, director of the USSR Academy of Sciences Problems of Mechanics Institute and chairman of the All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies; People's Teacher of the USSR N.N. Beloshtentova, teacher at the Krasnoarmeyskaya Secondary School in Rostov Oblast's Orlovskiy Rayon; world chess champion G.K. Kasparov; and A.Ya. Rybakov, chairman of the Machine Building and Instrument Making Workers Trade Union Central Committee.

The congress heard greetings from students at vocational and technical schools.

The congress adopted at Appeal to Working People and Trade Unions of the World. It contains a call for the formation of a broad alliance of working people for a nuclear-free world, a world without war or violence.
The congress elected commissions to prepare drafts of the 18th USSR Trade Unions Congress resolution and a resolution on amendments to the USSR Trade Union Statutes.

The congress heard greetings from Petur Dyulgerov, chairman of the Bulgarian Central Council of Trade Unions; Miu Dobrescu, chairman of the Romanian General Union of Trade Unions Central Council; (Akhmeyd Abu Bakr Dzhellud), general secretary of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions; and (Khassan Sunmonu), general secretary of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity.

The congress continues today.

'Self-Critical Analysis'

LD261736 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Excerpts] The USSR Trade Unions 18th Congress is continuing. Its delegates assembled in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses again today. The delegates and guests welcomed with applause Comrades Demichev, Biryukova, Lukyanov, Nikonov, and Razumovskiy. [passage omitted]

A deep, frank, self-critical analysis of the state of affairs in the largest mass workers' organization is continuing at the congress; and tasks, routes, and methods for improving further the work of the country's trade unions are being expressed in concrete form. Guests from abroad and representatives of national trade unions and international organizations addressed greetings to the congress.

SFRY TU Official

LD270021 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2025 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow, February 26 (TANJUG) -- The commitment of the peoples of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union to develop socialism in keeping with their own conditions and wishes has enabled the two countries to develop comprehensive, eqality-based and mutually useful cooperation in all areas ranking Yugoslav trade union official Andjelko Vasic stated at the Soviet Trade Union Congress in Moscow today.

The Yugoslav trade union delegation to the Moscow congress, headed by Vasic, today visited a Moscow construction industry combine, where Vasic addressed the workers.

He said the changes in Soviet society were followed with great interest in Yugoslavia, and underscored that Yugoslavia highly values the initiatives advanced by the Soviet government and Mikhail Gorbachev, personally, for disarmament in the world, especially nuclear.

The Yugoslav trade union official said that Socialism, as a world process, faced great challenges. The development of production forces as a result of the scientific-technological revolution can be used further to broaden democratic processes and the development of self-management, Vasic set out.

Bulgaria's Dyulgerov Speaks

AU101436 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 27 Feb 87 pp 1, 4

["Greetings Message of the Central Council of the Bulgarian Trade Unions," read by Petur Dyulgerov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Bulgarian Trade Unions Central Council, at the 26 February session of the 18th Congress of the USSR Trade Unions]

[Text] We came to your congress and are taking part in its work with great interest and deep satisfaction. This is easily explained. For seven decades already, everything that takes place in the USSR has a world significance. For seven decades the country of the great October and Lenin has proudly carried and defended the banner of human progress. During these years, interest in the USSR has constantly grown but now it is especially great. The crucial turning point that you implement, and the scope and depth of the changes excite all of us. They please your friends and alarm the enemies of socialism.

Many people throughout the world are asking themselves now: What is happening in the USSR? We could answer: Yes, something really big is happening in the USSR -- the revolutionary spirit of October and the great ideas of Lenin are reborn and triumph!

The Bulgarian working people understand the significance of this historical turning point in the development of Soviet society and the countries of the socialist community, and its great influence over the contemporary world. We are strongly impressed by the radical character of the restructuring, and the revolutionary scope and proletarian principlemindedness, with which the party course is being implemented. We follow every new step which you undertake to accelerate socio-economic development, put management and maintenance on an economic basis, comprehensively develop socialist democracy and socialist self-management, consistently implement the principles of socialist justice, and renew the Soviet society.

The work implemented by the Soviet people during the short historic period since the CPSU Central Committee April Plenum and the 27th CPSU Congress is colossal. It has no analogy in its scope and depth. Everyone understands that difficulties and problems are inevitable when such a great enterprise is involved. However, the results and the total support rendered by the Soviet working people to this course confirm its correctness and transforming power. Be assured, comrades, that this is well-known and appreciated throughout the world, and that it increases the international prestige of the USSR and socialism's ideas and cause.

The new situation reveals a broad scope for the work and development of the USSR Trade Unions. Here, at the congress, we feel the spirit of the restructuring, its uncompromising requirements, and the determination to boldly march along the road of renewal.

This was strongly demonstrated in the speech of Comrade Mikhail S. Gorbachev. I can frankly say that we shall also draw lessons for ourselves from everything which is taking place in the USSR and at the present congress of the Soviet Trade Unions. [paragraph continues]

We shall return from the congress enriched with new ideas and visions, and with increased optimism. As the congressional discussion shows, the Soviet Trade Unions are a necessary and powerful force for restructuring, and they make their contribution to activating the human factor, developing the socialist democracy and self-management of the labor collectives, and better satisfying the modern needs of the working people.

The organization of millions in the creative effort to accelerate socio-economic development and the organization of millions in the effort to protect their interest -- this is how we view this congress of the USSR Trade Unions.

We are connected by fraternity and a great past. However, we are bound together even more strongly by the present -- the common socialist road and the new factors for which our parties, countries, and peoples are working. At the present crucial stage we face tasks which require innovative decisions and the renewal of the entire arsenal of means for constructing socialism.

In accordance with the requirements of our time, the BCP worked out a strategic course for new qualitative growth on the basis of the scientific-technical revolution and the socialist self-management. Now our society and all working people are engaged in implementing a broad program for the technological reequipment of production. The system of self-management is being reformed and we are proceeding toward economic methods of management and maintenance. Social and economic life is being democratized. An entire system of organs of self-management is being constructed and it is already functioning. A transition from governing in the name of the people to governing through the people is taking place.

The Bulgarian Trade Unions are actively engaged in these processes and are a factor with a unique role in turning the new socio-economic strategy into the practice and cause of the millions of working people. We face great responsibilities and complex problems. On the one hand, it is necessary to struggle against the obsolete concepts and free ourselves from inappropriate means and work methods, and on the other, we must assume our new responsibilities and functions and construct our work in accordance with the principles of self-management. The practice already proves that under these conditions the trade unions have much better opportunities to serve the needs and interests of the working people and collectives, and implement their real role of being a school for management and maintenance.

Everything undertaken and done in the USSR and Bulgaria to perfect socialism opens a great field for cooperation between the Bulgarian and Soviet Trade Unions, fills our fraternal friendship with new contents, and makes a great contribution to our common struggle for removing the thermo-nuclear threat, and for peace, disarmament, and social progress.

Comrades, please accept the warm and fraternal greetings of Bulgaria's working people and our belief and conviction that the Soviet Trade Unions will be an active power in restructuring and will make a great contribution to the strategy of acceleration.

TRUD Cites Romania's Dobrescu

PM271438 Moscow TRUD in Russian 27 Feb 87 p 6

[Account of speech delivered by Miu Dobrescu, chairman of the Romanian General Union of Trade Unions Central Council, at 26 February evening session of USSR Trade Unions Congress]

[Excerpts] The Romanian people rejoice sincerely in the great achievements of the Soviet Union's peoples, and wholeheartedly send them the warmest congratulations and wishes for new successes in fulfilling the tasks set by the 27th CPSU Congress for building the socialist society and advancing toward communism, the speaker said.

We note with satisfaction, he went on, that relations of traditional friendship and cooperation in all spheres of activity have become established between our parties, countries, and peoples. The bonds of friendship between the trade unions of Romania and the Soviet Union form part of the fruitful multifaceted cooperation. As for the Romanian General Union of Trade Unions, it will continue to advocate the steady development of our peoples' friendship, unity of action by the international trade union movement, and the strengthening of the cause of peace and socialism throughout the world.

Comrade M. Dobrescu went on to describe in detail the successes in socioeconomic development in the country over the years since the antifascist and anti-imperialist revolution of 23 August 1944. [passage omitted]

In conclusion the speaker conveyed to the trade unions and all the working people of the USSR wishes for success in implementing the important decisions which will be taken by this representative forum of the Soviet Union's working people.

TRUD Reports 27 Feb Congress Proceedings

PM041103 Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Feb 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Information Report"]

[Text] Yesterday, 27 February, the 18th USSR Trade Union Congress continued work in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses.

The delegates and guests greeted with applause Comrades G.A. Aliyev, V.I. Vorotnikov, M.S. Solomentsev, P.N. Demichev, V.I. Dolgikh, B.N. Yeltsin, S.L. Sokolov, Yu.F. Solovyev, A.P. Biryukova, A.I. Lukyanov, V.A. Medvedev, V.P. Nikonov, and G.P. Razumovskiy.

Discussing the AUCCTU and Central Auditing Commission reports, the delegates expressed working people's resolve to make every effort to implement the policy worked out by the party of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and resolving the trade unions' priority tasks in restructuring -- tasks which were set forth by M.S. Gorbachev in his congress speech -- and spoke out acutely and constructively on topical questions of improving trade union work.

The morning session was addressed by the following comrades: A. Dadabayev, chairman of the Tajik Republic Trade Union Council; V.V. Kuzmichev, tire cover fitter at the Yaroslavl Tire Plant; [paragraph continues]

Hero of Socialist Labor M.V. Ikharlova, trade union group organizer and chairman of the Textile and Light Industry Workers Trade Union Central Committee; M.K. Arutyunyan, chairman of the Armenian Republic Trade Union Council; I.D. Kobzon, artist at the Moscow Concert Association, people's artist of the RSFSR, and USSR State Prize winner; I.G. Varlamov, chairman of the trade union committee at the F.A. Merkulov Severskiy Pipe Plant in Sverdlovsk Oblast; A.M. Yakovlev, chairman of the Construction and Construction Materials Industry Workers Trade Union Central Committee; E. Abakirov, chairman of the Kirghiz Republic Trade Union Council; Yu.M. Solomin, artiste at the USSR State Academic Malyy Theater, people's artist of the RSFSR, chairman of the theater's trade union committee, and member of the Cultural Workers Trade Union Central Committee; and O.I. Ishankuliyeva, chairman of the Turkmen Republic Trade Union Council.

The congress was greeted by Bat-Ochiryn Luvsantseren, chairman of the Mongolian Central Trade Union Council; Kim Pong-chu, chairman of the Korean Trade Union Association Central Committee; John Nkademeng, general secretary of the South African Trade Union Congress; Norman Willis, general secretary of the British Trade Union Congress; Pertti Viinanen, chairman of the Finnish Central Trade Union Organization; Manuel Carvalho da Silva, secretary for coordination of the General Confederation of Portuguese Workers-National Intersindical; Jim Knox, chairman of the New Zealand Labor Federation; (Said) Wali, deputy chairman of the Afghan Central Trade Union Council; Cesare Poloni, representative of the ILO [International Labor Organization]; Tadesse Tamirat, chairman of the Ethiopian Central Trade Union Council; and Moises Labrana, member of the Chilean National Leading Council of Working People Executive Committee.

The evening session was addressed by the following comrades: A.A. Ferensas, chairman of the Lithuanian Republic Trade Union Council; A.A. Murashov, drivers' team leader at the Kurgan No 1 Motor Transport Production Association and USSR State Prize winner; V.M. Khodyrev, chief of staff of a Komsomol shock construction project -- the development of the city of Nakhodka -- and chairman of a youth housing complex; N.N. Bondarenko, student at the Dnepropetrovsk Medical Institute and deputy chairman of the trade union committee; and V.P. Tolyupa, chairman of the Krasnoyarsk Kray Trade Union Council.

During the congress the work of sections was organized: on trade unions' production and economic work and the intensification of their influence on the acceleration of scientific and technical progress; on labor protection; on state social welfare and the protection of working people's health; on trade union participation in accelerating the resolution of the housing problem and improving the trade and consumer services provided to working people; on the trade unions' educational work and the organization of working people's leisure; and on developing socialist self-management and further improving the style and methods of trade unions' organizational work in the light of the demands of the 27th CPSU Congress.

A report on the sections' work was delivered by K. Turysov, secretary of the AUCCTU.

The congress adopted a resolution recommending that the AUCCTU examine the proposals and remarks put forward by delegates at the sections of the 18th USSR Trade Union Congress and take practical measures to implement them.

The congress was greeted by Anjelko Vasic, member of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia Presidium; Isao Iida, chief of the Japanese General Council of Trade Unions Organizational Department; Thitsoi Sombatdouang, chairman of the Lao Trade Union Federation; Andreas Ziartidhis, secretary general of the Pan-Cypriot Labor Federation; Say Siphon, vice chairman of the Cambodian Trade Union Federation; and Rajih Salih Naji, general secretary of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen General Confederation of Workers.

The congress continues work today.

FOREIGN DELEGATES ADDRESS 27 FEB SESSION

DPRK's Kim Pong-chu Address

PM061441 Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Feb 87 p 3

[Unattributed report on speech by Kim Pong-chu, chairman of the General Confederation of Trade Unions of Korea Central Committee, at 18th USSR trade union congress on 27 February, under the general heading "Greetings from Foreign Guests"]

[Text] The 18th Soviet Trade Union Congress is being held in a portentous year -- the year of the 70th anniversary of Great October. Soviet working people under the leadership of the CPSU have now launched a powerful struggle to complete the building of socialism and to bring about communism.

We warmly welcome the fraternal Soviet Union's successes, the speaker said, and wholeheartedly wish it new successes in the struggle to implement the 27th CPSU Congress decisions.

Our country's working people, the speaker continued, are struggling to successfully fulfill the targets of the first year of the Third 5-Year Plan, which is a decisive turning point in the struggle for the total victory of socialism on Korean soil.

The achievement of the independent [samostoyatelnyy], peaceful unification of the motherland is the most urgent task facing our people. The party and government are doing everything possible to solve the problem of unifying our country by peaceful means. However, the U.S. imperialists and their South Korean puppets are exacerbating the situation, balancing on the brink of war. The Korean peninsula is turning into an extremely dangerous region because of U.S. military policy. We insist on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons and U.S. troops from South Korea and the transformation of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone of peace.

The prevention of war and the defense of peace are the prime task facing mankind. The Soviet Union's bold peace initiatives have received enormous support and sympathy from all peace-loving forces.

Korean-Soviet friendship, reinforced in the long struggle to implement common goals and ideals, is strengthening and developing with every passing day. We are very pleased, the speaker said, with the stepping up of ties and contacts between the two countries' working people and trade unions and with the successful development of relations of fraternal friendship and cooperation.

The General Confederation of Trade Unions of Korea together with the Soviet working class will continue to oppose imperialism and war and to advocate the victory of the cause of socialism and communism and the strengthening and development of the international workers and trade union movement.

Afghanistan's Delegate

PM051701 Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Feb 87 p 3

[Unattributed account of speech to 27 February session of 18th Congress of USSR Trade Unions by (Said Wali), deputy chairman of the Afghan Trade Union Central Council, under the general heading "Greetings from Foreign Guests"]

[Text] Noting the importance of the tasks facing the 18th Soviet Trade Union Congress, the speaker expressed total support on behalf of Afghan working epople for the Soviet Union's constructive proposals aimed at ensuring lasting peace for all the peoples.

In the 8 years of undeclared war imposed on Afghanistan by imperialism and reaction, the speaker went on to say, 1,830 schools and cultural centers, 131 hospitals, more than 900 peasant cooperatives, thousands of kilometers of power lines, and dozens of state institutions have been destroyed or burned.

The PDPA decided to put a stop to this fratricidal war on the basis of national reconciliation. The national reconciliation policy is supported and approved by the Afghan people and by Afghans living abroad. But, unfortunately, foreign reaction is blocking this humanitarian decision. At the same time the Afghan people are firmly confident that the national reconciliation policy will be implemented despite the obstacles created by imperialism.

The Afghan trade unions, the speaker went on, are young organizations, but in the 5 years of their activity the ranks of trade unions in the country have doubled. Afghan trade unions actively participate in developing production and in the anti-illiteracy campaign, and persistently defend working people's interests.

Our working people are confident, the speaker said in conclusion, that the firm fraternal friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union will strengthen still further in the interests of the peoples of our two countries and for the good of world peace.

DELEGATES ADDRESS 'CRITICAL REMARKS' TO 'LEADING BODIES'

LD281106 Moscow TASS in English 1037 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 28 TASS -- TASS correspondent [no name as received] reports from the Kremlin:

Debates on reports are over at the 18th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions which is in its fifth day in the Kremlin. They were highly topical. Fifty seven speakers addressed plenary sessions and more than 150-section debates.

Delegates spoke of different matters and yet quite a few common ideas can be singled out in many speeches. For instance there was not a single delegate who failed to address critical remarks to leading trade union bodies, the methods and the type of work of this mass-based public organisation of the country (its membership is 140 million).

Criticism was levelled at grass-root organisations and trade union committees largely for failure to use to the full degree their rights and potentialities, and at the higher echelon of the trade union leadership - for bureaucratism, alienation from life, from people.

Almost all speakers called the attention of the congress to the need to defend more effectually the rights and interests of the working people. In view of this, the idea was aired that trade unions should counter technocratic tendencies in the Soviet economy, not to allow a situation in which the fulfillment of social programmes is moved to the background as was the case in the past.

Delegates, who spoke also from the rostrum of the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, pointed out that the Congress' proceedings were taking place in the period of life in the Soviet country, which was turning, difficult but immeasurably interesting. It is a period of an uphill reorganization effort and Soviet trade unions should be up to the imperatives of the time.

One may say that not only delegates took part in the congress. Over 20,000 letters from ordinary trade union members and labor collectives were sent in to the trade union congress. These letters are considered by the congress' secretariat.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES APPROVED AT CONGRESS

LD281207 Moscow TASS in English 1124 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow February 28 TASS correspondent reports from the Kremlin:

The delegates of the 18th Congress of the Soviet Trade Unions today unanimously adopted a resolution on the changes in the rules of the trade unions of the USSR.

The debate on the draft rules was under way in the press even in the run-up to the congress. Upwards of 2,000 proposals were made by trade union members. About 200 amendments and additions were made to the document with account of those proposals as well as speeches by delegates to the congress. So, the new edition of the rules became the fruit of the truly joint efforts.

What distinguishes the adopted text of the rules from the previous one? In the new edition the role of the trade unions as "one of the important links in the political system of Soviet society, socialist self-government by the people" has been formulated for the first time.

This formalization in the document is exceptionally important now that the independently-acting public organisations assume ever greater significance in the process of the further democratization of Soviet society.

The trade unions with a membership of almost 140 million is the most mass organisation of them.

The new edition of the rules reads that the Soviet trade unions "promote in every way socialist self-government by the people...democracy" in the sphere of production. This means that the trade unions' role as a driving force of Soviet society is recognized. The old rules did not say this.

The augmented rules specify and expand the rights and duties of the trade union members. It lists, among others, the right of the trade union member to "take part in managing enterprises, institutions and organisations, state and public activities...". The previous rules did not contain such a provision.

The rules also specify the tasks of the primary trade union organisations. Their opportunities have been appreciably expanded. It is written, for instance, that the primary trade union organisation takes a vigorous part in elaborating and adopting socio-economic decisions" concerning a plant, factory or institution.

Special mention should be made of the duty of the primary trade union organisation, now become statute, to create conditions in which each worker would feel oneself as a master at his or her enterprise..". The new edition of the rules has also widened the opportunities of the trade union committee of an enterprise or an institution, which is sure to raise the authority of the trade unions.

The new edition of the rules is a step forward in democratizing the inner-trade union life. The document has, among others, a provision on the possibility of nominating several candidates to each elective post of the trade union bodies instead of one candidacy in the past.

A new part was added to the rules, which regulates the trade unions' relationships with state and public organisations. It opens up an opportunity for further deepening their interaction and cooperation.

NICARAGUAN DELEGATE ADDRESSES CONGRESS 28 FEB

LD281452 Moscow TASS in English 1155 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 28 TASS -- The traditions and experience of the Soviet working people are of immense importance to the development of the trade union movement in Nicaragua, said Lucio Jimenez, general secretary of the Sandinista Congress of Workers. He addressed the 18th Congress of the Soviet Trade Unions today.

Jimenez stressed that the Nicaraguan working people were determined to put an end to the aggressive war against Nicaragua, unleashed by U.S. imperialism. He spoke in detail about the effort to build the foundations of socialism in Nicaragua where the drive is underway now to set up (?democratic state institutions).

TV COVERS SHALAYEV'S CLOSING ADDRESS

LD281636 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1335 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Speech by AUCCTU Chairman Stepan Alekseyevich Shalayev at closing session of 18th Congress of USSR Trade Unions in Kremlin Palace of Congresses -- live]

[Text] Comrade Delegates, the first plenum of the new All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, which was elected by the Congress, has been held. Allow me to report on its results. The plenum unanimously elected the leading bodies of the country's trade unions.

The plenum elected Shalayev as AUCCTU chairman. [applause]

The plenum elected Comrade Vladimir Grigoryevich Lomonosov as AUCCTU deputy chairman. [applause]

The following were elected AUCCTU secretaries and members of the AUCCTU Presidium: Comrades Leonid Davydovich Kazakov [applause]; Igor Yevgeniyevich Lochkov [applause]; Valentin Nikolayevich Makeyev; Viktor Maksimovich Mishin; Vitaliy Petrovich Provotorov; Mikhail Borisovich Ryzhikov; Galina Fedorovna Sukhoruchenkova; Karatay Turysovich Turysov; and Gennadiy Ivanovich Yanayev. [applause]

The following were elected members of the AUCCTU Presidium: Comrades Vitaliy Sergeyevich Aleshnikov, leader of a team of machine-tool operators at the "Kirov Works" production association in Leningrad; Khaliman Khalimov, chairman of the Uzbek Republic Council of Trade Unions; Irina Ivanovina Volodina, skilled mechanical milking operative of the "Leninskiy Luch" kolkhoz, Krasnogorskiy Rayon, Moscow Oblast; Faina Mikhaylovna Gerasimova, dressmaker at the "Volga" production association of the Yaroslavl clothing production Directorate, Yaroslavl Oblast; Ivan Ivanovich Gladkiy, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems; Vladimir Ivanovich Goncharik, chairman of the Belorussian Republic Council of Trade Unions; Nikolay Kuzmich Dolgushkin, secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; Ermek Zhakselekov, chairman of the Kazakh Republic Council of Trade Unions; Vladimir Titovich Ivanov, chief of the AUCCTU organizational and instructors' department; Mariya Vasilyevna Ikharlova, chairman of the Central Committee of the Textile and Light Industry Workers Union; Academician Aleksandr Yulyevich Ishlinskiy, director of the Institute of Problems of Mechanics of the USSR Academy of Sciences and chairman of the All-Union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies; Margarita Konstantinovna Konnova, senior machine operative at the Novomoskovk "Lenin" nitrogen production association, Tula Oblast; Vladislav Ivanovich Korzhev, chairman of the Leningrad Oblast Council of Trade Unions; Yuriy Mikhaylovich Kulemin, chairman of the trade union committee of the Gorkiy motor vehicle works production association; Nikolay Vasilyevich Nemchenko, leader of an electrical welding team at the Novokramatorskiy machine-building production association in Donetsk Oblast; Boris Semenovich Parfenov, leader of a team of forge workers at the Verkhnyaya Salda "Lenin" metallurgical association, Sverdlovsk Oblast; Aleksandra Ivanovna Petrovicheva, core-maker at the Moscow "Dinamo" electrical machine building production association; Aleksandr Serafimovich Potapov, editor-in-chief of TRUD; Lidiya Khudatovna Rasulova, chairman of the Azerbaijan Republic Council of Trade Unions; Anatoliy Yakovlevich Rybakov, chairman of the Central Committee of the Machine-Building and Instrument-Making Workers Union; Vitaliy Alekseyevich Sologub, chairman of the Ukrainian Republic Council of Trade Unions; Mikhail Aleksandrovich Srebnyy, chairman of the Central Committee of the Coal Industry Workers Union; Vladimir Nikolayevich Tuzkov, chairman of the Central Committee of the Radio and Electronics Industry Workers Union; Ivan Artemovich Shinkevich, chairman of the Central Committee of the Railway Transport and Transport Construction Workers Union; Vladimir Pavlovich Shcherbakov, chairman of the Moscow City Council of Trade Unions; and Albert Mikhaylovich Yakovlev, chairman of the Central Committee of the Construction and Building Materials Industry Workers Union. [applause]

A session has taken place of the Central Auditing Commission of USSR trade unions, elected by the Congress. Comrade Lidiya Avgustovna Kubyak has been elected chairman of the Central Auditing Commission of USSR Trade Unions.

Comrades, I am instructed by the AUCCTU and the Central Auditing Commission of the USSR trade unions to express sincere gratitude to all the delegates of the 18th Congress of USSR Trade Unions for the great trust that you have put in all of us in electing members of the leading bodies of the USSR trade unions. [applause]

The members and candidate members of the AUCCTU and the members of the Central Auditing Commission of the USSR trade unions have instructed me to assure you that they will do everything possible to successfully implement the tasks that the 18th Congress of USSR Trade Unions has set our country's trade unions. [applause]

Comrade delegates! Esteemed foreign guests! The 18th Congress of USSR Trade Unions is ending. It was an unusual and special congress in the life of Soviet trade unions. All the work that it did was permeated with the spirit of our time -- a difficult time, a time of change, but, as was noted at the congress, an interesting and inspiring time, a time of renewal and restructuring. The congress demonstrated the profound understanding by the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry and the working people of the country of the crucial nature of the current time, the importance of successfully fulfilling the target plans for acceleration, and the need to continue and develop more boldly and firmly the process of profound transformations that has started in the country. Expressing the will of the 140 million working people of the country who belong to trade unions, the congress confirmed in the most convincing way that the Communist Party and its Central Committee can rely firmly and with complete certainty on the undivided support by Soviet trade unions for the strategic course drawn up by the 27th CPSU Congress. [applause]

Our congress has taken place in an atmosphere of critical, frank and principled assessment of the work of trade unions, an atmosphere of specific and businesslike identification of the tasks for the future. Such a mood was endowed on the work of the congress by the decisions of the January Central Committee plenum and the important speech laying down a program for Soviet trade unions which was delivered to us by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. [applause] His speech was permeated by the greatest concern that the trade unions should be in the first echelon of restructuring, that they should not lag behind the transformations that are taking place in the country, that they should take an active stand in society, and that they should firmly implement the line of defending the interests of the working people. It is an enormous support for all our work and a guidance for action by every trade union organization and by every trade union worker and activist.

At the congress there was a broad, collective exchange of opinions on all questions of the work of trade unions.

The speeches by workers, kolkhoz members, scientific and cultural figures, managers of economic bodies, and trade union workers and activists expressed profound concern for strengthening the prestige of the trade unions. Very valuable proposals and thoughts were expressed, which provide a big creative charge for all our future work.

The congress indicated clear-cut directions for restructuring the work of the trade unions under conditions of truly revolutionary changes in the economy, the social and cultural sphere and the style and method of work in a setting of a consistent democratization of society. Indeed -- and this is particularly important -- the congress, in determining tasks, proceeded from a profound understanding of the mounting responsibility of the trade unions for the implementation of economic and social policy.

The public practice of socialism is constantly broadening Lenin's definition of the role of Soviet trade unions and enriching it with fresh content.

But the main essence of that definition -- and this has been again reaffirmed by the present congress -- remains invariable, namely, that Soviet trade unions are a school for economic education and the development and enhancement of the creative activeness of the masses, and in present day conditions a school for socialist self-management, direct democracy and practical involvement of the masses in resolving the tasks of accelerating the socioeconomic development of the country.

The discussions at the congress have convincingly confirmed how important it is for the trade unions to master new forms of production and economic work. Financial autonomy, the self-recouping and self-financing of enterprises and associations, new principles of earnings, new requirements with regard to the quality of output and the utilization of fixed production assets, and the introduction of cooperative forms into the sphere of production and services all need to be regarded by the trade unions as their own dear and vital cause and as the basis for a further growth in the well-being of Soviet people.

The congress has exactingly urged a decisive improvement in the organization of socialist competition and the dissemination of front-ranking production experience. These, Comrades, are now most important tasks for all trade union organizations.

As an insistent demand of the times and the will of the whole many-millions-strong army of trade union members the trade union organizations perceive the need to become a counterbalance to half-hearted technocratic impulses in the economy, strive for an intensification of social orientation in economic decisions, ensure there is no gap between the solution of production tasks and the development of the social sphere, display principledness and firmness and stand guard over social justice.

Active involvement in the nationwide cause of providing all Soviet people with well-appointed housing, concern for the health of the working people, for women and labor and war veterans and for the education of young people, the strengthening of order and discipline and an intensification of the struggle against drunkenness, nonlabor incomes and all the other negative aspects of our life all remain, comrades, among the top priority tasks of Soviet trade unions.

We shall not make any progress whatsoever if we do not fundamentally restructure the work of primary trade union organizations and all trade union bodies from the trade union committee to the AUCCTU.

We must more boldly restructure the internal life of the trade unions, enhance the role of meetings and elective bodies, make room for criticism and self-criticism and step up our exactingness toward cadres. Trade unions must conduct all their affairs in an open and publicized way.

One must not be afraid of discussing acute issues. There will be fewer mistakes, the public atmosphere will be cleaner, and it will be easier to work.

That has been proved by the thousands of examples born of restructuring. It is not by making loud initiatives and pledges, but by painstaking daily work to further technical progress, to improve the working, living and leisure conditions of people and defend their rights that the trade unions must strengthen their authority.

Therein lies the foundation of social activity by people, the source of highly-productive labor, health and a good mood: Here are the roots of real acceleration.

We have every grounds for thinking that under the influence of restructuring the country's trade unions will find new strength in themselves, will work extra hard, will fully reveal their enormous social potential, and will justify honorably the lofty trust placed in them by the working people and the whole of our society. [applause]

Comrades! The whole of our congress was a vivid demonstration of the growing unity of the trade unions and working people in all countries in the fight against the threat of mankind's destruction in the fire of a thermonuclear catastrophe, the fight for the rights and interests of working people and for peace and friendship among peoples.

We congress delegates cordially thank once again the foreign guests that have spoken here and all the emissaries of the working class from many countries throughout the world for taking part in our congress and for the feelings of fraternal friendship that they expressed toward our country and the working people and trade unions of the USSR. [applause]

I assure you that Soviet trade unions will continue to bear aloft the banner of proletarian internationalism, and that they will work still more energetically to achieve and strengthen cooperation and unity of action among all detachments of the international workers' and trade union movement in the fight for peace and social progress.

Comrade delegates, in a few days' time you will all return to your labor collectives.

Permit me to say with certainty that each one of you will become the most active propagandist and implementer of the decisions adopted at the congress, and will fulfill to completion your honored mission as delegate to the 18th Congress of USSR Trade Unions.

Permit me, on your behalf, to assure the CPSU Central Committee and all working people that the Soviet trade unions, guided by the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the January plenum of the Party Central Committee and the 18th congress of the country's trade unions, will multiply their contribution to the nationwide cause of social and economic acceleration.

Permit me to wish you all from the bottom of my heart great success at work for the benefit and happiness of our socialist homeland, good health and happiness! [applause]

Comrades, permit me at this point to declare the 18th Congress of USSR Trade Unions closed. [applause, followed by singing of Internationale and further applause]

Thank you, comrades, for your harmonious work at the congress!

The best of success to you in everything you do!

We look forward to seeing you again, and goodbye! [applause]

CONGRESS PASSES RESOLUTION ON AUCCTU REPORT

PM041701 Moscow TRUD in Russian 1 Mar 87 pp 3-4

[Unattributed report: "Resolution of the 18th USSR Trade Union Congress on the AUCCTU Report"]

[Text] Having heard and discussed the AUCCTU report,the 18th USSR Trade Union congress notes that in the period that has elapsed trade unions under the leadership of the Communist Party have stepped up their influence on the resolution of the questions of economic and cultural building, have grown stronger organizationally, and have been enriched with new work experience.

The decisions of the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and the 27th party congress, which defined the strategic course of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and qualitatively transforming all aspects of our society's life, are of immense importance for trade unions. Under their influence, the activeness of trade union organizations in mobilizing working people to successfully fulfill plans is growing and more attention is being devoted to meeting the needs of workers, employees, and kolkhoz members, the organization of socialist competition, and the strengthening of discipline. A powerful new boost to trade union activity has been provided by the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum, which examined the tasks of restructuring and improving the party's cadre policy.

Soviet trade unions express their total support for the strategic course of the Communist Party, its domestic and foreign policy, and the entire activity of the CPSU Central Committee, and are active and interested participants in the transformations taking place in the country.

Restructuring concerns the trade union movement -- a mass social organization uniting more than 140 million people in its ranks -- in all its aspects.

It places high demands on trade union organs and cadres and encourages them to take active steps to overcome the shortcomings that have accumulated in the trade unions' work. In resolving production and social questions, trade union councils and committees still do not rely much on labor collectives and working people's opinions; and by no means always defend working people's interests combatively, purposefully, and persistently; or show concern for the protection of labor and safety equipment; for the improvement of housing conditions, and for the construction and work of health, sports, and club institutions. Stagnant phenomena and inertia among cadres exist and insufficient attention is devoted to improving the work standard of primary trade union organizations.

Under the conditions of the deepening of socialist democracy, the strengthening of the economic autonomy [samostoyatelnost] of enterprises and associations, the expansion of labor collectives' powers, and the development of self-management the role of the trade unions as a school of administration, a school of economic management, and a school of communism is growing together with a simultaneous increase in their responsibility for the state of affairs in labor collectives and society and for the resolution of the tasks of social policy and the protection of working people's interests.

The 18th USSR Trade Union Congress resolves: to approve the work of the AUCCTU during the period covered by the report.

To commit the AUCCTU, trade union councils and committees, and primary trade union organizations to base their activity on the persistent and consistent implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and to involve all trade union members and every worker in the nationwide struggle to accelerate the country's socioeconomic development to provide Soviet people with a materially and spiritually rich and socially full life and to strengthen socialist positions and world peace. To fundamentally restructure trade unions' entire organizational work, to democratize their internal life, and to strive to ensure that trade union's enormous rights and potential are used confidently and extensively in the interests of working people and all socialist society.

I.

1. The congress emphasizes trade unions' great responsibility for restructuring the life of labor collectives on the basis of self-management, financial autonomy, self-recoupment and self-financing, and the development of working people's labor and political activeness. Conditions should be created which allow all workers to actually be the genuine masters of their enterprises. This work must focus on developing democracy in production and helping labor collectives in every possible way to implement their powers in resolving questions linked with production, social, and cadre affairs. Trade union central committees and councils are to make extensive use of all means of explanatory work, the economic education system, cultural enlightenment institutions, and the trade union press to train working people in the habits of socialist economic management and for their profound assimilation of the legal provisions on labor collectives and state enterprises (associations) and the ability to use their knowledge in the interests of the collective and society.

Trade union committees along with economic organs are to work persistently to develop and improve economic accountability and team forms of labor organization. It is necessary to ensure that the principles of economic accountability permeate all production components and that conditions are created for switching teams and other subunits to collective contracts.

Trade union committees and councils must exert a real influence on the state of affairs in each labor collective and actively participate in organizing enterprises' work under conditions of economic leadership methods and in considerably expanding their rights, economic accountability, and responsibility for the results of their activity. Strict observance of the principles enshrined in the new economic management conditions and the safeguarding of the stability of normatives and the correctness of the distribution of income earned by labor collectives should be sought.

2. A most important task for the AUCCTU and trade union councils and committees is to ensure together with economic organs the steady boosting of the role of socialist competition in the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development and in the successful fulfillment and overfulfillment of the 12th 5-Year Plan targets. It is necessary above all to develop workers' creativity, initiative, competitive thinking, talents, and organizational skills and to assimilate their front-ranking experience. The socialist competition system should be reoriented to fundamentally improve labor productivity, output quality, and resource saving; to unconditionally fulfill contractual commitments; and to strengthen labor discipline; competitors are to be geared to exceeding world standards in terms of the most important production indicators on the basis of the introduction of modern achievements of scientific and technical progress.

The congress urges all workers, kolkhoz members, engineering, technical, and scientific workers, specialists, and employees to join more actively in the nationwide socialist competition to worthily greet the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, to successfully fulfill the 1987 plan,and to actively support the initiative of those front-ranking collectives and production innovators who are striving to fulfill the targets for the first 2 years of the 5-year plan by the 70th anniversary of Great October.

The patriotic initiatives made by the team headed by V.M. Gvozdev from "Raspadskaya" Mine, the section headed by A.P. Potapov from "Vorgashorskaya" Mine, and the drilling team headed by foreman V.K. Sidoreyko from the Main Administration for Petroleum and Gas in the Tyumen Region, who decided to achieve a breakthrough in accelerating labor productivity growth rates, achieved by the October Revolution jubilee yields that were projected for the end of the 5-year plan and doubled those yields by 1990, should be widely disseminated; the development of the experience of collectives at many plants and factories in Moscow, Leningrad, the Ukraine, and the Urals, which pledged to accelerate production development without personnel increases but by making efficient use of scientific and production potential is to be promoted in every possible way, as is the experience of the machine tool builders of Ivanovo, Gomel, and Ulyanovsk in restructuring production to produce progressive machines and equipment which are improving labor productivity many times over.

By utilizing front-ranking experience, working people in all national economic sectors are to be involved in the active struggle to implement the party's program goal -- achieving the highest world standards in social labor productivity.

The standard of competition organization is to be raised, formalism, stage-managing, and conventionalism in this area are to be resolutely eradicated, the choice of the forms and types of competition is to be approached creatively, and those forms which promote rapid production intensification and the achievement of high end results are to be developed. The economic substantiation of socialist pledges and counterplans is to be improved. We must strive to ensure that under the conditions of stable targets for each year of the 5-year plan every labor collective and team has its own workers' counterplan for exceeding labor productivity growth rates, ensuring above-plan savings of material resources, and increasing output of the high-quality goods needed by the national economy.

Trade union committees and councils together with economic leaders are to constantly improve the incentives provided to competition participants, to skillfully combine material and moral forms of encouragement, and to improve the social prestige of production innovators, masters of work, and skillful organizers -- particularly those who achieve stable fulfillment of plan indicators when they move to laggard collectives. We must ensure that the Leninist principles of competition organization -- openness, comparability of results, and the opportunity to repeat front-ranking experience -- constantly operate everywhere in full measure.

The USSR Academy of Sciences and AUCCTU Scientific Council on the Problems of Socialist Competition and Working People's Participation in Production Management and the AUCCTU Scientific Center are to be instructed to accelerate the elaboration of current questions of the theory and practice of competition under the new economic management conditions.

3. The duty of trade unions is to actively participate in the implementation of measures to fundamentally improve the utilization of raw materials, fuel, energy, and other material resources and to concentrate this work directly in labor collectives.

The initiative of collectives and working people in opening savings accounts is to be supported and developed. The responsibility of every worker for observing the regime of strictest economy is to be enhanced and workers' interest in using secondary resources and reducing losses at all stages of production and during the transportation and utilization of output is to be increased. The practice of team, shop, enterprise, and association collectives which work not less than 2 days each year on materials and energy that have been saved over and above the plan is to be more widely disseminated.

4. A most important task for the AUCCTU, trade union councils and committees, and all trade union organs is to mobilize labor collectives to struggle to improve output quality and to bring the proportion of output corresponding to world standards up to 80-85 percent for basic industrial output, and 100 percent for wholly new output.

Vocational and patriotic pride in the honor of the Soviet label is to be molded in working people and better use is to be made of measures for encouraging high-quality work and forms of exerting social influence on shoddy workers.

The congress wholly supports the practical measures taken by the party to radically improve quality and introduce state acceptance of output. Trade union councils and committees must approach with the utmost responsibility questions of organizing the work of enterprises and associations under the conditions of state acceptance of output, strive to solve in good time any problems that emerge, and conduct this work openly, with extensive participation by workers, engineers and technicians, employees, and the entire labor collective.

The effectiveness of competition for the titles "Quality Standout" and "Standout Quality Team" between associated plants both within enterprises and among suppliers of materials and components on the "Workers' Relay" principle is to be sharply enhanced, the initiative of teams which take collective responsibility for the production of purely high-quality output and pledge to work with their own team hallmark is to be supported and developed, the practice of creating quality groups at enterprises is to be disseminated everywhere, and the necessary conditions for ensuring their successful activity are to be ensured.

5. The congress notes that the CPSU's line of fundamentally accelerating scientific and technical progress -- the main lever for intensifying the national economy and improving its efficiency -- wholly accords with working people's vital interests. It is the trade unions' direct duty to constantly increase their contribution to the development of science and technology, to actively promote the speediest retooling and renovation of production, and to ensure that these processes are comprehensive and accord with the tasks of boosting production, improving the quality and economy of output, enhancing working conditions, and solving other social questions. Working people are to receive preferential training for work with new equipment and technologies.

Taking account of the decisive importance of science in accelerating scientific and technical progress, the congress demands that the AUCCTU and trade union central committees and councils step up their leadership of the activity of trade union organizations at scientific research institutes, planning and design institutions, and VUZES and enhance their role in mobilizing labor collectives to fulfill scientific and technical programs, to create new-generation technologies, effective technological processes and plans, and high-yielding agricultural crop varieties and breeds of animals, to achieve world leadership in these spheres, to reduce the time taken to introduce developments, and to strengthen the ties between science and production. Trade union organizations at scientific research institutes, design bureaus, and VUZES must promote in every possible way the implementation of new forms of integrating science and production and must provide effective assistance in creating and operating engineering and intersectorial scientific and technical complexes and temporary scientific collectives and services for the introduction of training centers and production training associations into the higher education system along the lines of the experience of the Ukraine and the USSR Academy of Sciences Siberian Division.

Trade unions must show constant concern to further develop mass technical creativity, to improve its effectiveness, and to extensively involve working people in inventive and rationalization activity. The creative forces of innovators and the scientific and technical public are to be mobilized to implement the highly important tasks of production intensification. Particular attention is to be devoted to ensuring the maximum reduction in manual and unskilled labor, the introduction of new, high-efficiency machines and equipment and energy-saving, low-waste, and waste-free technologies, and the scientific organization of labor. For this, the experience of the trade union councils and scientific and technical societies of Kharkov Oblast in setting up creative collectives to carry out specific developments to order for enterprises, and the practice of participation by Leningrad Oblast's scientific and technical public in implementing the "Intensification 90" program and by Krasnodar Kray's All-union Society of Inventors and Rationalizers organizations in compiling an inventory of inventions and rationalization proposals and introducing them into production are to be more actively utilized.

The AUCCTU, trade union central committees, the All-union Council of Scientific and Technical Societies, and the All-union Society of Inventors and Rationalizers Central Council are to step up their demandingness toward ministries, departments, and economic organs for the introduction of scientific and technical innovations, inventions, and rationalization proposals and are to ensure that valuable proposals are introduced into production as quickly as possible. Reliable social barriers must be placed in the way of bureaucratism and red tape in the utilization of inventions and an uncompromising struggle must be waged against everything that stands in the way of the introduction of innovation or stifles the creative thinking of scientists, workers, engineering and technical workers, and employees. Public monitoring of the implementation of plans to modernize enterprises and introduce new technology must be stepped up, and discussions of these plans in labor collectives are to be conducted on a wider scale.

6. Trade union councils and committees are to actively promote the practical implementation of measures to improve the use of production potential by working associations, enterprises, and organizations in two- and three-shifts, which is of great importance for intensifying social production. This work is to be conducted in close contact with local soviets. [paragraph continues]

A principled stance must be adopted on these issues, care must be taken to avoid attempting to change to new working practices without making serious preparations or restructuring the work of organizations and institutions in the services sphere and sociocultural sectors, and efforts must be made to ensure that all measures linked with shift work are developed and implemented with the extensive participation of working people. Concern is to be shown by creating favorable conditions for workers and employees who switch to new working practices for their high-quality work and rewarding leisure and to ensure that full use is made of measures that provide incentives for shift work.

II.

1. The congress attaches paramount importance to the implementation of the long-term strong social policy developed by the 27th CPSU Congress and aimed at bringing about qualitative transformations in the entire social sphere, boosting the people's prosperity, and improving Soviet people's living and working conditions. Trade unions should be active proponents on a nationwide basis of preventing discrepancies in the resolution of production tasks and the development of the social sphere.

Trade union central committees and councils, and trade union committees at enterprises, organizations, kolkhozes, and institutions are urged to effectively ensure that priority is indeed given to the social sphere, to show greater purposefulness and persistence in satisfying working people's material and cultural needs, and to strive to ensure that the principle of social justice is fully implemented in all spheres of social relations.

2. One of the most important tasks is to implement the measures developed by the party and government together with the trade unions to profoundly improve the pay of workers in all sectors of the national economy and to consistently establish everywhere the strict dependence of wages on the quality and quantity of work and its end results. Trade union organs must use their powers in the sphere of pay to guarantee a correct approach to the determining of tariffs, pay scales, premiums, supplementary payments, and labor expenditure norms and normatives and must resolutely combat unearned income, any manifestations of wage leveling, and distortions of the main principle of socialism -- "from each according to their abilities, to each according to their labor."

Trade union organizations together with economic organs bear full responsibility for proper and timely preparation to introduce new tariff rates and salary scales for workers in production sectors of the national economy. Utilizing the experience of the collectives at the Belorussian Railroad and other organizations and enterprises, workers and employees are to be extensively involved in the implementation of measures to amass the necessary funds to improve pay rates and salary scales and upgrade the systems for allocating premiums and setting work norms, taking account of changes in equipment, technology, and production organization.

3. The congress makes it incumbent on trade union councils and committees to join economic bodies in ensuring the effective utilization of public consumption funds and extensive openness in this matter.

Efforts are to be made to contribute to the accelerated development of material and technical facilities for the country's socioeconomic complex, to the speediest removal of discrepancies and establishment of equal conditions for the use of services on the basis of public funds from region to region, sector to sector, and enterprise to enterprise. A persistent effort is to be made to secure advantages in the granting of benefits from public consumption funds to working people who are making the greatest contribution to the collective results of labor and there must be a constant concern to give effective assistance to badly off and large families.

The AUCCTU is to be instructed to study the practice of applying legislation on workers' and employees' leave and to put forward the necessary proposals on improving it.

4. The congress sees it as the trade unions' paramount task to actively participate in implementing the party's modern agrarian policy, fulfilling the USSR Food Program, and effecting the social transformation of the countryside.

It is the duty of trade union bodies, above all committees of the agro-industrial complex workers' trade union, to pay more attention to improving the economic mechanism of management in the agrarian sector and to ensuring the steady improvement of labor productivity on the basis of the extensive development of the collective and family contract, genuine financial autonomy and assimilation of intensive techniques, and the reduction of output losses.

Trade union central committees and councils are to join economic and soviet bodies in completing the establishment of subsidiary farms at all enterprises which have the relevant conditions for this, so that by 1990 the farms are producing an average of at least 15-25 kg of meat and 50 kg of milk for every person working in the industrial sectors.

Greater persistence must be shown in the development of collective fruit growing and truck farming and it is necessary to ensure in conjunction with soviet and economic bodies an annual increase of at least 1-1.2 million in the current 5-year plan in the number of workers' and employees' families' cultivated plots.

5. The AUCCTU, trade union councils and committees, and all trade union organizations are to participate more effectively in fulfilling the Comprehensive Program for the Development of Consumer Goods Production and the Services Sphere in 1986-2000. The trade unions must be more persistent in tackling questions associated with supplying the market with everyday consumer goods and improving their quality and consumer properties. An effort is to be made to improve trade and consumer services for working people, to make them more available at the production site, and expand the range of services enterprises offer to their workers and employees. It is necessary, in conjunction with economic bodies, to ensure by the end of the 5-year plan the complete satisfaction of the demand for public catering at the work place and a radical improvement in its quality and in the standard of service.

The AUCCTU and trade union committees and councils are to actively participate in elaborating a prices policy for the various goods and service tariffs, to monitor the correct fixing of them and their observance, and to counter efforts by economic bodies to effect unwarranted increases in prices for new articles and to take out of production cheap, popular goods, especially goods for children, young adults and the elderly.

6. Trade unions must resolutely increase their involvement in fulfilling the 5-year plan targets on constructing 595 million square meters of housing and in implementing the major political and social task of providing essentially every family with a well-appointed individual apartment or house by the year 2000. Every labor collective and every oblast, kray, and republic must have a specific program for implementing this national task. There must be an increase in the personal responsibility of leaders of trade union central committees and councils for the unconditional fulfillment of plans for housing construction.

Trade union councils and committees are to persistently disseminate the experience of working people at the Gorkiy Truck Plant who are intending to solve the housing problem by 1995, in Ulyanovsk Oblast, where a regional program for accelerating housing construction has been elaborated and is being implemented, and the collective of the Vladivostok Housing Construction Combine, which has taken it upon itself to increase the production of complete housing units by 50 percent in the current 5-year plan by retooling and revamping production.

A more vigorous effort should be made to involve enterprise and association labor collectives in aiding construction organizations and to extend the practice whereby an enterprise uses its own resources to construct housing, utilizing for this purpose up to one-half of the funds for social and cultural measures and also part of the funds earmarked for production development Every assistance is to be given in the construction of youth housing complexes and individual and cooperative housing and more use is to be made of enterprises' incentive funds to give material assistance to individual builders and members of housing construction cooperatives.

Trade union bodies are to increase their role in the better utilization of the existing housing ensuring high-quality maintenance and prompt repairs to prevent unnecessary deterioration of housing, and supervise strict observance of Soviet laws and the principle of social justice in housing allocation.

An effort should be made to ensure the general implementation of measures to fully meet the population's demand for children's preschool establishments in the current 5-year plan.

7. The AUCCTU and trade union councils and committees are required to make full use of the rights granted to them in order to ensure safe and healthy working conditions in production and prevent any violations of the norms and requirements of labor protection and safety measures at all enterprises. It is necessary to tighten up responsibility for unswerving observance of technological and production discipline and ensure high reliability and safety standards in new equipment and technology and the commissioning of production units only when all the labor protection work has been completed.

The congress said that one of the most important tasks for trade union and economic bodies in all national economic sectors is that of bringing working conditions fully in line with existing norms at all work places; double the elimination of heavy physical labor, the removal from production of machinery and equipment which are monotonous to operate or which involve work in dangerous, difficult or harmful conditions. The AUCCTU is to be instructed to join the USSR Gosplan and the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social problems in elaborating and implementing the requisite measures to carry out these tasks. Labor protection control systems are to be introduced in all national economic sectors in the 1987-1988 period.

Measures have been adopted to establish a proper production ambience at all enterprises. An effort must be made in the next few years to equip them with washrooms in accordance with the established norms, establish examplary order in them, and make them comfortable. It is necessary to improve the provision of high-quality special clothing, special footwear, and other personal means of protection for working people.

The congress calls upon scientists, designers, and technologists to ensure the development of completely safe equipment and technology and new and more effective means of protecting people from the effect of monotonous work, emotional stress, and other adverse factors associated with production mechanization and automation, and the creation of methods of forecasting and means of preventing potential production emergencies. The work of AUCCTU labor production institutes and specialized scientific research organizations, laboratories, and departments of labor protection at VUZ's is to be made more effective and the introduction of their developments aimed at improving working conditions and increasing safety is to be accelerated.

The AUCCTU, trade union councils and committees, and all trade union organizations must pay much more attention to implementing a very important nationwide task, the protection of the environment, stipulate concrete measures in this sphere in agreements and collective contracts, and instill in Soviet people a protective and caring attitude toward nature.

8. The congress attaches special significance to the consistent fulfillment of one of the main functions of trade unions -- protection of working people's legitimate rights and interests.

The congress makes it incumbent on the AUCCTU, trade union central committees and councils, and all trade union organizations to step up monitoring and supervision at every enterprise, association, kolkhoz, organization, and institutions of the unswerving observance of Soviet legislation and the creation of an atmosphere in labor collectives which rules out unlawful dismissals, violations of the work and recreation routine, the incorrect calculation of pay and other offenses. It is necessary to treat all working people's requests sensitively and attentively, make full use of trade unions' rights to restore justice, and severely penalize those guilty of violating legislation. All violations of labor rights must be made public and must be denounced. The standard of the work of the trade unions' legal inspectorate is to be improved, its responsibility for observing the laws is to be increased, its collaboration with law-enforcement bodies is to be improved, and legal assistance for working people is to be expanded through public legal advice bureaus.

9. The congress stresses the paramount importance of trade unions' work to improve working people's health, prevent illness and on that basis reduce losses of work time.

The task of the AUCCTU, trade union councils and committees, and health bodies is to join ministries, departments, and economic bodies in seeking by the end of the 5-year plan to reduce working people's temporary incapacity by 10-15 percent. It is necessary to ensure the elaboration and implementation of sectorial and territorial "Health" programs and make extensive use of the experience of the effective work of the trade union and econoimc organizations of Belorussia, Latvia, Sverdlosvk Oblast, of the Novolipetsk Metallurgical Combine named for Yu.V. Andropov and other enterprises in the country in reducing illness among working people.

Every effort is to be made to contribue to the unconditional fulfillment of plans for the development of public health services and material facilities for improving medical services for workers, kolkhoz members, employees, and young students and to expanding the construction of clinics and other health establishments on the basis of enterprise funds.

The AUCCTU, trade union councils and committees, and the central council for the management of trade union health resorts are to take steps to accelerate sanatorium and health resort construction and increase the scale of the establishment of local health resorts in areas of the North, Siberia, the Far East, and other regions under intensive economic development; health aid is to be brought as close as possible to the working person's place of residence and work. Special attention is to be paid to increasing the network of specialized sanatoriums for parents with children and to providing wider opportunities for family recreation. It is necessary to improve the quality of health resorts' work and their amenities, make them more comfortable, and provide them with more modern equipment.

The proposals made at the congress on granting trade union councils the right to set aside 5-7 percent of trade union budget funds for this purpose should be given a vote of approval.

The allocation and issue of warrants for treatment and recreation at sanatoriums and health resorts should be strictly regulated and their correct and ratiuonal utilization and the unswerving observance of the principle of social justice in this matter ensured.

Trade union bodies are to display constant concern for women workers and create conditions for combining motherhood with active involvement in labor and social activity and for consolidating the family. This work is to be done in close collaboration with women's councils and they are to be given comprehensive assistance.

Trade union councils and committees are to join the all-union war and labor veterans organization in paying more attention to pensioners and their needs and requirements, making fuller use of veterans' experience of life and lofty moral qualities in educating the younger generation, and providing working pensioners with all the requisite conditions for fruitful labor.

III.

1. The congress instructs the AUCCTU and trade union councils and committees to carry out the thorough restructuring of all educational work in the light of the demands of the 27th party congress and CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum, seeking to activate the human factor in the matter of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and educating working people in the spirit of communist ideological commitment and devotion to the Soviet homeland, the friendship and fraternity of the USSR peoples, socialist internationalism, and intolerance of all that is alien to our culture and morals. This work must be forceful, honest, and specific. The spiritual and moral values of socialism must be actively and purposefully mobilized to counter the hostile influence of imperialist propaganda, the deleterious effect of bourgeois "mass" culture, and religious prejudices.

Trade unions are to concentrate their educational activity in labor collectives, teams, and work places and they are to link it closely to the tasks facing enterprises and organizations and the real problems worrying working people. It is necessary to constantly improve person-to-person work, comprehensively develop the glorious traditions of the working class, and awaken in every Soviet person the inner need to work conscientiously and creatively and cherish their professional dignity and the honor of the labor collective.

Day-to-day concern is to be displayed for the labor education of the young generation of the working class and kolkhoz peasantry. Matters are to be organized in such a way as to ensure that every young worker begins his working life, as a rule, in the collective's primary cell -- the production team. The organization of the patriotic movement of individual and collective mentors of young people is to be improved and the mentors' prestige is to be maintained and strengthened.

The congress appeals to all personalities in Soviet multinational art to be bolder and more active in creating vivid, original works worthy of our times, to portray the new hero -- the working person, the devotee of restructuring -- passionately and truthfully, to inspire millions of people to new achievements through that hero's example, and to teach them to live and work in the new way.

2. Trade union councils and committees should consistently assert the norms and principles of socialist morality and a healthy way of life, firmly and steadily implement the party's line of strengthening socialist labor discipline, and mercilessly eradicate phenomena alien to socialism -- drunkenness, drug addiction, attempts to obtain unearned income, and parasitism. They should develop in every Soviet person high civic awareness, the desire to struggle for moral purity in our life, readiness for selfless labor for the common good, socially reasonable demands, and intolerance of petit bourgeois, private property mentalities. They should support and widely develop the working people's movement "Production and Social Discipline -- Guaranteed by the Collective" and the movement for settlements to display a high level of civilization and a sober way of life, and give more practical assistance to primary organizations of the All-union Voluntary Society for Temperance.

3. The congress instructs the AUCCTU and trade union councils and committees constantly to improve and renew forms and methods of organizing meaningful leisure for the working people and to organize this work comprehensively, taking account of Soviet people's growing spiritual requirements and interests. It is considered expedient everywhere to draw up long-term programs for cooperation among trade unions and creative unions and scientific, technical, sporting, and other societies and organizations in the most important areas of spiritual development, the enhancement of the working people's cultural level, and the intelligent, useful use of their free time.

The AUCCTU's proposal on channeling R1 billion of trade union funds over the next 10 years into the construction and modernization of clubs and sports facilities in the regions of the European north, Siberia, and the Far East is approved. In the current 5-year plan, all labor collectives and educational institutions in the country are to be brought into the sphere of club services, a ramified network of club branches is to be created, and enterprises and institutions are to become involved on a proportionate basis in the economic maintenance and utilization of club facilities regardless of their departmental affiliation. The initiative of the Dnepropetrovsk Oblast trade union, Komsomol, and sports organizations on creating very simple sports facilities is to be widely disseminated with a view to providing very simple physical culture and sports complexes throughout the country in every labor and educational collective, youth hostel, park, and out-of-town leisure zone in the near future. The further development of city and rayon culture and sports complexes and the creation of culture and sports complexes at major enterprises in 1987-1988 is to be actively promoted.

The network of special-interest clubs, amateur creative societies, laboratories, and workshops is to be expanded, their content enriched, and their work made more socially attractive, and youth leisure centers and club branches are to be created at hostels and educational institutions and at places of residence, paying special attention to giving assistance to young people's amateur societies. New socialist customs are to be persistently introduced into daly life, and public festivals and joint leisure activities for families and labor collectives are to be organized. It is necessary to ensure the consolidation and development of the achievements of the second All-union Festival of People's Creativity, the further restructuring of the orgaizational and methodological leadership of mass amateur artistic activity, and the creation in 1987 in the majority of labor and educational collectives of their own choir, brass band, or folk orchestra and other amateur circles and collectives.

The AUCCTU initiative on holding a "2-Year Young People's Hostels Campaign" in 1987-1988 is to be supported. Trade union central committees and republican, kray, and oblast councils an committees, together with Komsomol committees, ministries, departments, and local economic organs, are to carry out concrete measures over that period in order to resolve in practice a range of problems associated with the creation in every hostel of the conditions for exemplary daily life and meaningful leisure and a healthy moral climate. Workers and employees living in hostels are to be involved widely in resolving these problems.

4. The Central Council for Tourism and Excursions, in conjunction with trade union councils and committees, is to base its activity on the implementation of the tourism development program provided for in the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee resolution. Measures are to be adopted to at least treble the volume of tourist and excursion services by the year 2000, to considerably improve the standard and content of the work of tourist institutions and excursion services for all categories of the population, including those living in rural localities, to further expand family tourism, and to create a network of rental centers for tourists in every city and rayon.

The AUCCTU and trade union central committees and councils are to improve the organization of children's and adolescents' vacations, create the conditions for organized vacations for 23 million schoolchildren by 1990, and open day camps attached to the majority of schools, cultural enlightenment institutions, and sports and extracurricular institutions. Attention is to be directed to the organization of the summer vacation for students at vocational and technical schools and children living in the unfavorable climatic conditions of the country's northern territories and to the further development of tourism for children and adolescents.

The social education of children and adolescents is to be improved, and labor veterans and students are to be more widely involved in work with them. Active use is to be made of diverse forms of strengthening the labor collectives' influence on the family and increasing parents' social responsibility for their children's education. Workers' meetings on the "The Family and the Labor Collective" are to be held on the basis of Chelyabinsk Oblast's experience.

5. The congress instructs the AUCCTU and trade union councils and committees to take measures to strengthen the participation of trade union organizations in creating and developing an integrated system of continuous education, carrying out the reform of general educational and vocational schools, restructuring higher and secondary specialized education, and improving the preparation of young people for independent life and labor, service in the ranks of the Soviet Army, and the defense of the fatherland. There is to be more concern for strengthening the material and technical base of production practice, developing the network of training shops, sectors, laboratories, and experimental farms, and ensuring computer literacy among schoolchildren and students and more familiarity on their part with modern production equipment and technology.

The trade unions' role is to be stepped up in creating favorable conditions and opportunities for the working people constantly to broaden and renew their knowledge and develop their level of information, professional standards, and skills in the management of public and production affairs. Active efforts are to be made to improve the system of working people's economic education and people's universities and to increase the effectiveness of their activity in molding knowledgeable, enterprising, creatively thinking workers.

The editorial offices of trade union newspapers and journals and AUCCTU's Trade Union Publishing House are to ensure the high effectiveness and practicality of the materials published, to reveal more fully and vividly the complex processes of the restructuring of society's life and the development of democracy, and to expand the propaganda of living experience of work in the conditions of restructuring and the creative initiative of working people and production collectives aimed at seeking new reserves and successfully fulfilling the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and the plans and socialist pledges adopted for the 12th 5-Year Plan. They are to take up everything new and positive and make it accessible to everyone, wage an implacable struggle against all kinds of negative phenomena, lack of initiative, complacency, and departmental and local self-interest, and ensure the profound truthfulness and constructiveness of critical articles. Trade union publications are to concentrate their attention on revealing in depth the activity of trade union councils and committees. They are to actively promote the radical improvement of their work style and methods, the establishment of a concrete approach to the task in hand, and the enhancement of the trade unions' role in accelerating the country's socioeconomic development.

Trade union councils and committees are to develop and strengthen day-to-day links with the mass information and propaganda media, set up public departments of trade union life at the editorial offices of local newspapers, radio, and television, and help increase the ranks of worker-peasant correspondents.

IV.

1. The congress notes that the scale, novelty, and complexity of the tasks the trade unions have to resolve make special demands on the standard of their organizational activity and make it incumbent upon them to increase the activity and militancy of every trade union organization. Trade union organization and their leadership organs face the task of urgently learning to work in the conditions of deepening democracy and the people's increasing political and labor activeness and actively promoting the development of socialist self-management and the exercise of the broad opportunities it opens up for the working people and labor collectives. Trade union organizations should exert a real influence on the state of affairs in every labor collective, develop the trade unions' characteristic forms of involving working people in the management of production, and support in every way the new forms of self-management engendered by the masses, creativity, first and foremost labor collectives' councils. The role of collective contracts in resolving current questions in the labor collective's life is to be substantially increased, and monitoring of the fulfillment of reciprocal commitments is to be stepped up. Real monitoring by working people of the activity of officials, trade union organs, and cadres is to be strengthened and the organic combination of democracy and discipline, autonomy and responsibility, and rights and duties of trade union members is to be ensured in practice.

2. The congress regards it as a most important avenue of the restructuring of the trade unions' activity to deepen internal trade union democracy on the basis of developing the activeness of trade union members, their initiative and autonomous activity, openness, criticism and self-criticism, especially criticism from below, strict observance of the priciple of collectivve leadership, and the strict accountability of elected organs to trade union organizations.

Trade union meetings should be held regularly, in accordance with statutory norms, topical issues should be submitted for their examination, the conditions should be created for the open and businesslike discussion of these issues, the opinions and proposals of trade union members should be taken more fully into account be ensured.

Broad openness is to be ensures in trade union work, and various forms and methods and mass information and audiovisual agitation methods and mass information and audiovisual agitation media are to be actively used to this end. Trade union members are to be informed systematically about the activity of trade unions organs and the fulfillment of decisions adopted and critical observations and proposals from the working people. Everything that is done in the trade unions should be subject to maximum openness [otkrynost], and trade union members should be given the real opportunity to voice their opinion on any question of trade union life.

Voluntary principles are to be developed and improved in the activity of trade union organizations, the organizational practice of commissions, councils, and staff is to be set in order, and their work is to be improved; the resolution of questions of the expedience of setting them up should come within the competence of trade union committees. Efforts are to be made to ensure that every social formation operates effectively and not just formally, and that it is a true school of management for the trade union aktiv. Trade union activists are to be supported in every way and efforts made to create the conditions for their social activity.

3. The congress emphasizes the need to fundamentally improve the work of all primary trade union organizations and to eliminate everything that fetters their initiative and limits independence in using the broad powers granted them.

Association, enterprise, kolkhoz, establishment, and organization trade union committees are to act vigorously in the interests of trade union members, display persistence and principledness in everything relating to improving people's working conditions and leisure, enhancing organization and responsibility, and observing the principles of social justice, and wage an implacable struggle against red tape and formalism; under conditions of enterprises' expanding economic independence and labor collectives' broader rights they are to formulate new approaches to exercising their functions and resolutely abandon obsolete work forms and methods. Leadership of shop trade union organizations is to be improved. The efforts of trade union groups are to be concentrated on individual work with trade union members and on creating a businesslike and creative atmosphere in labor collectives' primary links.

Trade union committees and councils are to restructure work on the leadership of primary trade union organizations. Numerous checks and frequent summonses of trade union committee chairmen and other trade union workers and activists to conferences and sessions are to be excluded from practice, and attention is to be focused on giving practical assistance and instructing the trade union aktive directly in organizations. It is considered expedient to extend the practice of endowing trade union committees with the rights of a rayon trade union committee and transferring some of their powers to shop trade union committees.

4. The congress attaches great significance to ensuring the decisive role of collective, elected organs which, in accordance with regulation tasks, re to direct the activities of trade union committees and trade union organizations and efficiently monitor the executive apparatus and its formation and work. An atmosphere of genuine collectivity, of free and principled discussion of questions, of criticism and self-criticism is to be asserted at plenums, and overregimentation and attempts to limit the rights of members of elected organs are to be resolutely eliminated. Conditions are to be created for the efficient functioning of the democratic mechanism of the formation and work of elected organs.

The trade union apparatus' enhanced competence and responsibility for the assigned task and the restructuring of its work in accordance with modern demands are to be sought. The trade union apparatus must become an active link in the renewal of all trade union work. Its stagnation and inertia are to be resolutely overcome, and the creation of paperwork, red tape, and isolation from the trade union mass are to be eradicated. The structure of trade union organs is to be improved, and measures are to be taken to reduce the apparatus. With a view to conducting collective monitoring of cadres' work and stimulating growth in their business qualifications, certification of senior officials of the trade union apparatus is to be introduced.

The AUCCTU is to be entrusted with implementing practical measures aimed at closer cooperation among trade union central committees and councils in the leadership of trade union organizations and at eliminating unjustified duplication and parallelism in their work. The solution of questions connected with excessive regulation of trade union committees' financial activities and with the broadening of their independence is to be accelerated.

5. The congress makes it incumbent on the AUCCTU and on trade union councils and committees to conduct cadre policy in full accordance with CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum decisions and to link it inseparably with key directions of the struggle to accelerate socioeconomic development. Persistent efforts are to be made to ensure that every trade union link is headed by people dedicated to the people's interests, by real innovators who are profoundly aware of the need for qualitative changes in our society and who are capable of overcoming inertia and routine and creatively organizing work. The decisive criterion for assessing cadres must be their attitude to restructuring and specific practical steps in that direction. Very strict measures, even including dismissal from work, are to be applied to those who cling to old ways and do not change the state of affairs for the better.

Democratic principles are to be developed in cadre work, it is to be conducted openly and publicly, the opinion of trade union members is to be relied upon more fully, and a constant influx of fresh forces is to be ensured. More workers, kolkhoz members, and young people are to be recommended for leading work in trade union organs, and a policy of ensuring that all nations and ethnic groups are properly represented on trade union councils and committees is to be pursued. Cadres' responsibility for the assigned work sectors is to be constantly enhanced, and an atmosphere of mutual exactingness is to be created. The need for constant contact with people is to be fostered in them, and all instances of laxity, conceit, arrogance, and an insensitive attitude to working people's needs are to be resolutely suppressed. Concern is to be shown for the trade union worker's pure and honest makeup. He must set an example of being true to his word, of honesty, decency, incorruptibility, modesty, and intolerance of any deviations from the norms of socialist morality. Those who violate moral norms are to be subject to publicity and public censure, and the trade union apparatus is to be resolutely purged of such people.

The standard of Marxist-Leninist training and ideological and moral tempering of trade union cadres and the aktiv is to be raised. Their high political standards, profound understanding of the essence of the party policy of acceleration and restructuring, and the ability to closely coordinate program aims with daily organizational and educational work in every work sector are to be fostered more intensively. Special attention is to be devoted to instructing the aktiv of primary trade union organizations directly in enterprises, establishments, and organizations, the network of trade union aktiv schools is to be extended, and they are to be given more methodological and practical assistance.

VUZ's and scientific subdivisions of trade unions are to concentrate attention on scientific interpretation of trade union work practice under conditions of acceleration, on determinig the most efficient ways to restructure it, and on further improving the training of trade union cadres.

6. Trade union organs are to develop and strengthen businesslike cooperation with soviets of people's deputies, people's control organs, the Komsomol, women's and other public organizations, and creative unions in resolving the tasks of improving housing, consumer, medical, and cultural services for working people, developing consumer goods production and the services sphere, the communist education of young people and the rising generation, and nature conservation activity and to impart a systematic and purposeful nature to this work everywhere.

V.

1. The congress considers it the Soviet trade unions' very important duty to assist in every possible way the implementation of the peace-loving foreign policy course of the CPSU and the Soviet state and to strive persistently to achieve unity of action in the international trade union movement and to rally all forces that advocate peace, democracy, and social progress.

The AUCCTU and trade union councils and committees are to constantly direct their activity toward developing positive shifts in the international trade union movement and steadily increasing the might of the working people's antiwar struggle and of their mass actions against the arms race on earth and its transfer into space, for the creation of zones free from nuclear, chemical, and other kinds of mass destruction weapons in Europe and on other continents, and for the elimination of hotbeds of tension in various parts of the globe.

Efforts to propagandize the Soviet Union's peace-loving foreign policy initiatives are to be stepped up, and militarism's fundamental hostility to the interests of the broad masses of working people and the incontestable benefits and advantages which an end to the arms race would bring for working people in all countries are to be shown in a well reasoned manner.

It is necessary to orient all forms of the Soviet trade unions' international work toward achieving these aims: bilateral and multilateral ties and contacts, mass meetings and international trade union forums, activities in international and regional organizations. The advantages of the socialist system, its dynamism and implacability toward stagnation, the role of Soviet trade unions in the struggle to accelerate the country's socioeconomic development, their multifaceted activity in defending working people's rights and interests, and the Soviet people's genuine internationalism are to be revealed more convincingly, intelligibly, and vividly.

The congress supports the proposal to create an international Human Survival Fund, designed to rally all public organizations and all people of good will in the name of saving civilization, and entrusts the AUCCTU and trade union central committees and councils with participating in its creation and activity.

2. Work on enhancing the effectiveness of the Soviet trade unions' contribution to the activities of the WFTU and international sectorial trade union associations must be continued. Considering the positive aspects which have emerged in the approach of many capitalist countries' trade unions to problems of peace and disarmament, it is necessary to devote special attention to the search for new forms and approaches to organizing joint antiwar actions and to actively support all constructive undertakings and initiatives, wherever they stem from.

The congress approves the action program of the international trade union movement formulated by the 11th World Trade Union Congress -- a program of struggle for working people's rights and vital interests and for the cohesion of trade unions in this struggle. The AUCCTU and trade union central committees and councils are to be entrusted with actively promoting its realization.

3. The congress instructs the AUCCTU and trade union councils and committees to develop and improve cooperation with the socialist countries' trade unions in every possible way. The effectiveness and dynamism of this work are to be enhanced, Soviet people are to be involved more actively in broad and fruitful contacts with the socialist countries' working people, and the further strengthening of labor collectives' direct ties, the development of their production, scientific, and technical collaboration, and the deepening of all-round cooperation of working people and their trade unions on joint enterprises and construction sites and in international associations and organizations are to be promoted. The experience of the fraternal countries' trade unions is to be studied purposefully, and an increase is to be sought in the practical return of its utilization. An effective contribution is to be made to deepening socialist economic intergration. Special attention is to be devoted to implementing the Comprehensive Program for CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Through the Year 2000 and to developing and improving international socialist competition.

Soviet trade unions will invariably strengthen soldarity with and give all possible support to the working people and trade unions of Vietnam, Cambodia, Cuba, and Laos in building socialism and defending national independence, and to the working people and trade unions of the DPRK in the struggle for the motherland's unification on a peaceful democratic basis. USSR trade unions advocate the development of cooperation with China's trade unions in the interests of both countries' peoples and the cause of peace and socialism.

4. The congress advocates the broadening and deepening of cooperation with the trade unions of liberated countries struggling for economic and social liberation and against the growing expansion of multinational monopolies, primarily against the debt slavery imposed on developing countries by the IMF, other international financial organizations, and private multinational banks and companies. Soviet trade unions will help to increase the role of young states' trade unions, strengthen their international positions, and train and instruct national trade union cadres.

Soviet trade unions will continue to display solidarity with the heroic peoples of Afghanistan and Nicaragua, who are courageously defending their revolutionary gains against aggressive encroachments on them by international reaction headed by the United States and will resolutely support the patriots of El Salvador, Chile, Paraguay, Arab countries, and southern Africa and other peoples struggling against fascism and reaction, racism and apartheid and for national and social liberation.

5. The congress considers it necessary to further develop cooperation with trade unions of capitalist countries. It remains an important task to promote in every possible way the mobilization of the trade union movement to participate widely in antiwar measures, the assertion of new political thinking, and the shaping of public opinion opposed to the policy of confrontation being pursued by the U.S. Administration and its closest allies. It is necessary to promote in every possible way in the trade union masses profound awareness that the threat of a suicidal thermonuclear conflict hanging over mankind can only be parried through the joint efforts of all people of good will, regardless of their political convictions.

Soviet trade unions will continue and step up work on strengthening all-European trade union cooperation, in whose development certain positive trends have become apparent.

Underpinned by the principles of proletarian internationalism and class solidarity, Soviet trade unions will tirelessly help to rally all forces of the world workers and trade union movement and actively advocate dialogue and cooperation in the name of peace and the defense of working people's fundamental interests.

The 18th USSR Trade Union congress assures the CPSU Central Committee that at a sharp turning point in the life of the country and of the modern world as a whole the Soviet trade unions under the leadership of the Leninist Communist Party will be strictly guided by the historic decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, by its inspiring ideas of peace and creation, and by the appeal to move boldly forward and devote all forces to the great cause of communist building.

POLISH, CUBAN DELEGATES MEET WITH PRESS

Miodowicz at Press Center

LD272115 Warsaw PAP in English 2040 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow, Feb 27 -- PUWP CC Political Bureau Member and Chairman of the All-Poland Trade Union Alliance (OPZZ) Alfred Miodowicz and the delegation of Polish trade unionists met with newsmen at the press centre of the 18th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions here today.

While answering one of the questions concerning the joining by the foreign representation of "Solidarnosc" of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), Alfred Miodowicz said that the Polish trade union movement regretfully took note of the fact the more so as the OPZZ was consistently striving for Poland's active participation in the ILO.

Joint actions for the benefit of disarmament should be the most significant sphere of trade unionists' cooperation, said the OPZZ chairman. The Polish trade unions fully support the Soviet peace initiatives designed to free mankind from a threat of nuclear war. Trade unions world over should use their strength and prestige in the struggle for peace, said he.

Cuba's Veiga on TU Movement

FL272041 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1902 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Roberto Viega, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions has affirmed in Moscow that the Congress of Soviet Trade Unions inspires new hope and guarantees faith in the superiority of socialism. During a conference at the press center of the 18th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions, Veiga said the forum reaffirms the decision of Soviet workers to make every effort to fulfill the program set forth by the CPSU for the country's socioeconomic development.

After stressing the critical nature of the debates in the congress, the Cuban trade union leader said the enemies of socialism focus on the Soviet Union's recognition of some deficiencies and weaknesses. Veiga reaffired that in reality, the use of criticism in the socialist process demonstrates the strength of the system and its decision to advance.

Veiga, who presides over the Cuban delegation at the Congress of Soviet Trade Unions in Moscow, stressed the firm decision of the workers to participate in the USSR's program to solve the housing problem through the year 2000.

Veiga referred to the impact Mikhail Gorbachev's speech had on the delegates and guests invited to the forum. Gorbachev said the fate of the restructuring process in the USSR is not decided in news releases, but in labor collectives.

The Cuban trade union leader said our people are preparing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and that they are already carrying out several activities in honor of the important date.

When speaking of the work performed by the USSR's trade union movment, Veiga stressed that the above will be discussed in terms of before and after the 18th congress.

Veiga on Foreign Debt

FL281852 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] During a news conference here in Moscow, Roberto Veiga, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, has said it has been demonstrated that the foreign debt of developing countries is unpayable and uncollectable.

When Latin American and Caribbean trade union leaders met in Havana a year ago, the Cuban trade union leader added, the debt was $360 billion and it is now $400 billion.

Veiga said Brazil's decision to suspend interest payments on its foreign debt is the result of a truly (?intolerable) situation.

The Brazilian Government's decision begins a new era in the economic relations of the so-called Third World with its creditors, and, he stressed, that historic decision promotes extensive continental solidarity that even extends to governments.

GASPAR COMMENTS ON CONGRESS BEFORE LEAVING

LD020454 Budapest MTI in English 1810 GMT 01 Mar 87

[Text] Budapest, March 1 (MTI) -- Sandor Gaspar, president of the Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions (SZOT), who headed a trade union delegation to Moscow to attend the 18th Congress of the Soviet Trade Unions, returned to Budapest Sunday. Prior to leaving Moscow, Sandor Gaspar gave a statement to MTI's Moscow correspondent. He said:

"The spirit and message of the congress, its entire activity clearly justified the efforts of the CPSU, that the Soviet leadership wants, and the masses require the change. The congress also formulated how the trade union movement can assist the social processes which were launched by the CPSU one year ago, and how the trade unions should change in this interest. Naturally, the trade unions cannot adapt in everything to the changed conditions within such a relatively short time, but the intention exists, and this is the most important thing", stressed the president of SZOT.

"The four-day debate proved that the trade union movement can be one of the awakening, organizing forces of the emerging Soviet reform process.

"The congress was also an important event of the international trade union movement. There has never been such major foreign participation at a single trade union congress of the socialist countries. Trade unions which have not attended the Soviet trade union congresses for the past 20 to 30 years were also represented. These included the British TUC, the delegation of which was led by the general secretary. The General Union of Italian Workers (CGIL) was also represented by the general secretary.

"Representatives of trade union movements from 135 countries were present in Moscow. The reason for the extensive attendance is partly that there is great interest throughout the world for the changes that have begun in the Soviet Union, and partly that at present in the West the right-wing is now carrying out a concentrated and well prepared attack against the left-wing, and the trade unions are one of the major targets of this attack, as they signify the most important forces of the left-wing everywhere. Capital is exerting huge pressure on them, referring to the fact that to eliminate the economic crisis, it has to receive a 'free hand', and its steps should not be hindered by the trade unions. The character and the role of the socialist countries' trade unions was formerly frequently debated in the Western European trade union movement, and even the necessity of its existence was queried, questioning what 'field of play' they can fulfil in a country relying on workers' power.

"We were also at fault in this; there was a time when we actually were the way the Western trade unions saw us. It was not an optical illusion when they failed to see our characteristic, independent profile, because we shared in the political mechanism that directed society. However, over the last five-ten years, they have paid greater attention to us as, when all is said, the trade union movement of the socialist countries signifies the future for them. They are orienting themselves towards us, as working people cannot be diverted from the power of the working-class, from the ideas of socialism -- in spite of the weakness of the socialist system and the errors that we have committed.

"The emergence of the Soviet transformation process, and the participation of the trade unions in this -- to which the current congress debate gave major impetus -- is certain to promote not only the development of the Soviet society, but will have a favourable effect on the entire left-wing trade union movement of the world, and naturally also on the World Federation of Trade Unions. Interest is already growing, precisely in view of the changes in the Soviet Union, towards the WFTU, and the possibility is also strengthening for the World Federation of Trade Unions to be the genuine and encouraging forum to get acquainted with and discuss the new features that are emerging in the revolutionary trade union movements. It was a weakness in the hitherto practice of the WFTU that we said only nice things about each other. The critical spirit which has been established in the Soviet Union has to inspire the Soviet and the international trade union movement, too, in the interest of better solving the major tasks facing us all.

"The congress of the Soviet trade unions has a message also for the Hungarian trade unions", said Sandor Gaspar. "It most of all suggests that our activity has to be thoroughly considered every day, as what we did yesterday might have been good yesterday, but not today, and what is good today might possibly not be adequate tomorrow. Socialism is a mobile society; if, perhaps, the economy stagnates, the society is in motion. The trade union movement has to follow this motion; otherwise it falls behind the social demands. Our fundamental ideological issues are clear, but our practice is not in everything. Thus, the most important lesson from the Soviet trade union congress is the command of thinking; that we always be ready to re-examine what we must do in the given situation, and by keeping our characteristic circumstances in view", said Sandor Gaspar in conclusion.

PRAVDA EDITORIAL HAILS AUCCTU CONGRESS

PM041321 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "All-Union Workers Council. All Aspects of Restructuring Affect the Trade Unions"]

[Text] The 18th congress of the trade unions -- the biggest mass organization of the country's working people -- has ended its work. There was a great debate on enhancing the role of the trade unions in the restructuring process and the further democratization of society.

M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered a speech at the congress.

This all-union workers council was held a year after the 27th CPSU Congress -- a year of intensive work by the party and the people aimed at accelerating our socioeconomic development. A reconstruction of the economic and management mechanism has begun, the system of labor remuneration is being restructured, measures to combat negative phenomena and improve the whole atmosphere in society have been launched. However, these are only the first steps. As the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum noted, the positive changes in the economy have not yet become a stable trend. The main -- and consequently the most difficult -- work still lies ahead. The task is to make restructuring irreversible, to place everything in the hands of the people. There is only one way to achieve this, and that is via the broad democratization of our society. Here an especially responsible role belongs to the trade unions.

The main sphere of activity is the labor collective, as was noted at the congress. The labor collective is the key cell in the restructuring. It is here and not at office desks that its fate is being decided. Depending on how the situation develops in the collectives, so it will develop in society as a whole, and this applies equally to the standard of order and organization, highly productive labor, the requisite output quality, a healthy moral and psychological climate, and the solution of social problems.

Acceleration and the improvement of the quality of our entire life can be achieved only by efficient, innovative, and conscientious labor rather than by mere words and assurances. The following are rightly described by the people as the Stakhanovites of the restructuring -- V. Gvozdev, a Kemerovo miners' team leader; N. Shcherbakova, a Moscow weaver; V. Saar, an Estonian construction worker; R. Khanova, a milkmaid from Bashkiria; V. Naumkin, a Chelyabinsk metalworker; P. Popov, a Tyumen timber procurement worker, and many others. It is the trade unions' task to ensure that with every passing day there are more and more such outstanding workers, to elevate them both morally and materially, and to wage war on the wage-leveling which only plays into the hands of shirkers and those who turn out substandard goods.

Labor, and labor alone, must be our yardstick in measuring people's worth and their social prestige and material well-being. The congress set the task of ridding socialist competition of formalism and reorienting it toward the indicators of quality, resource saving, and the strict fulfillment of contract deliveries. Trade unions have become used to the absence of real competition, to window dressing and the halfhearted dissemination of leading experience. At the Kalinin cotton combine dozens of workers are working in shock fashion, V. Kolosova, a spinner, said from the congress rostrum, yet they are virtually unknown in the collective. It is necessary to bring competition back down to earth, into the shops and teams, to make it the concern of the working people themselves, to develop the worker's creativeness, initiative, competitive spirit, talent, and organizational skill.

The changes in labor collectives' production life are linked to a decisive degree with the restructuring of the economic mechanism now under way, with the transition to financial autonomy, self-financing, self-recoupment, and self-management. The trade unions are now actively participating in the nationwide discussion of the draft law on state enterprises, which represents an essentially new ideology of economic management and is intended to provide a legal basis for the powers and responsibilities of production collectives in modern conditions. Delegates, and in particular N. Travkin, head of the Mosobiselstroy No. 18 trust, made some critical observations during the discussion of the draft and pointed out that the AUCCTU must display principledness in the generalization of the proposals and "align" the future law with the trade union Statutes. The trade union committees must not only impress the meaning of its propositions on every worker, they must also in the course of their day-to-day work ensure their unconditional implementation in practice.

Only the trade union organization's active, principled stance can ensure that it enjoys sufficient prestige in the labor collective. The trade unions' sphere of action is life itself with all its joys and worries. On a statewide scale, it was noted at the congress, the trade unions must serve as a kind of counterweight to technocratic impulses in the economy, they must wage an active struggle to prevent a gulf forming between the solution of production tasks and the development of the social sphere.

If in the course of the past 6 years the Ministry of the Coal Industry, the Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances, the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry, and the Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems have not once fulfilled their housing construction plans then responsibility for this must be fully shared also by the corresponding trade union committees. Conversely, the well-known initiative of the Gorkiy motor vehicle builders and their emulators to provide all workers with well-appointed apartments by 1995 is being implemented with the most vigorous participation of trade union activists, that is, the people who by their own actions justify the trust placed in them by their collective. The solution of the housing problem is a nationwide task and the efforts of the whole country must be pooled for this purpose.

The party's course toward the priority development of the social sphere is already being given a practical, graphic expression. The 1987 plan makes provision for greater volumes of construction of children's preschool establishments, schools, hospitals, polyclinics, and cultural and sports facilities than envisaged in the 5-year plan. Never before has so much money been appropriated for these needs. It is a question of the biggest social program in the country's history, and efforts to ensure its unconditional implementation everywhere are a matter of honor for the trade unions.

They must show particular persistence in taking care of the most precious capital -- people's health, the quality of the medical services available to them, labor safety procedures and practices, and leisure. In the same league is the struggle against drunkenness, which has already produced certain positive results but which requires unabated efforts in the future. It is necessary during the 12th 5-Year Plan to double the rate of elimination of hard physical labor, and to ensure within the current year that all working people are provided with hot food at their place of work and that the still frequent violations of labor procedures are reliably blocked.

Do not the cases of unlawful sackings of workers and employees and violations of social justice in the distribution of housing and public consumption funds which were cited at the congress sound like a serious reproof to trade union committees? Has the inertia of economic managers in providing paid consumer services at enterprises really been overcome? The transition to two- and three-shift working has in some places exposed a bureaucratic approach to this most important measure. Concern for the organization of production, catering facilities for workers, municipal transport, and other vitally important questions have been virtually ignored by trade union organizations. Such mistakes and indifference to people's needs are capable of discrediting this cause which is of tremendous state importance.

Soviet trade unions are invested with great rights, including the right to monitor the implementation of agreements and contracts by the administration and the right to criticize the actions of economic managers which run counter to the interests of the working people. When, for instance, in the new conditions of economic management production plans are changed or economic incentive funds are curtailed without the agreement of labor collectives, this must not be tolerated. Fully exercising their rights and defending the working people's interests more decisively -- this too signifies real participation in the restructuring process on the part of trade union organizations.

Everything is interconnected here. The more reliably people's rights and interests are defended the more confidently they will display a proprietary interest in production, and the more energetically they will participate in the democratization process. The more democracy there is in our country, the swifter will be our advance along the road of socialist renewal.

It was noted at the congress that the trade unions have many opportunities to expand democracy -- directly within the labor collective for one thing. Some of these are tried and tested, while others are born in the course of the restructuring process on the initiative of the working people themselves. It is important, however, that they are not undertaken merely for the sake of appearances, not as a concession to democracy on the part of a leader, but as organic, essential components of self-management. Openness in everything and constructive criticism of any shortcomings or officials with a view to really improving the situation must become the norm of life of every labor collective and every trade union organization. Only then can the awakened energy of the masses be used to counter the forces of inertia and inhibition, only then can the people who remain as yet on the sidelines of the restructuring process be helped to find their place in its overall configuration.

The Statutes of the USSR Trade Unions which were adopted at the congress contain a new section -- "Trade Unions and State and Public Organizations." It makes provision for more businesslike and efficient interaction with the soviets of people's deputies in accelerating socioeconomic development at local level, and with the creative unions, cooperatives, and women's and other organizations. The trade unions also share important concerns with the Lenin Komsomol: such as young people's education; the involvement of young men and women in working life; the administration of state and public affairs; and the organization of leisure for children and young people. In this area, too, there are many instances of "marking time." Thus in Kemerovo the Ministry of Power and Electrification assimilated only R410,000 out of R3 million during the 8 years of the construction of Vocational and Technical School No. 7. The Ministry of Power Machine Building, the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, and the Ministry of the Communications Equipment Industry did not commission a single student place in the course of a whole year. At the same time, Belorussian trade unions display much concern in their patronage of vocational and technical school hostels, and Ukrainian trade unions are planning to double the number of sanatoriums and preventive-medicine centers for working people in the course of the 5-year plan. In other words, trade union committees are equal to great tasks if they do not adopt the position of bystander or bow to real or bureaucratic obstacles.

Communists working in the elected trade union organs are called upon to play the vanguard role in enhancing the militancy of trade union organizations in the course of the restructuring process. Trust has been vested in them both by the labor collective and by their comrades in the party organization and, quite rightly, they are expected to set an example in overcoming inertia and excessive paper work, expanding the democratic norms of life, and actively involving working people in management.

Everything that is being done in our country to transform society and develop socialism's potential more fully is connected in the closest way with the peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet state. Living in peace and working in tranquillity is the paramount and inalienable right of every person. The congress expressed with the utmost decisiveness our people's unanimous support for the CPSU's strategic course of forestalling a nuclear war, it outlined ways of the further participation of Soviet trade unions in the international movement of progressive forces for mankind's survival, and it called on the world's working people and trade unions to join ranks in the struggle for the peoples' happiness.

It is significant that the 18th congress of the USSR trade unions was held in the year of the 70th anniversary of Great October. The present revolutionary transformations in our country are a direct continuation of the best traditions of the party and the people. The trade unions' most important task is to place the creative energy of the masses in the service of restructuring.

TRUD EDITORIAL DISCUSSES NEW TU STATUTES

PM081857 Moscow TRUD in Russian 6 Mar 87 p 1

[Editorial under the rubric "On a Topical Theme": "Behind the Lines of the Statutes"]

[Text] TRUD publishs today the text of the USSR Trade Union Statutes approved by the 18th Trade Union Congress. This document is the result of the collective creative work of thousands of people who have taken part in the discussion of the draft Statutes including the proposed amendments and additions. [paragraph continues]

In the course of this discussion a further 170 or so amendments and more precise formulations were introduced, all with a view to making the Statutes a reliable instrument of the trade unions in the implementation of their multifaceted functions in conditions of the country's accelerated socioeconomic development, ensuring the further improvement and democratization of the norms of trade union life, and strengthening the trade union organs' ties with the broad masses of the working people.

The new Statutes reflect the changes which are taking place in our society, create the necessary preconditions for committed and active participation by trade union organizations and every trade union member in the management of production, guarantee the defense of the legitimate interests of workers, kolkhoz members, employees, and students, and contribute to the fuller implementation of labor collectives' powers. The trade unions' main task is to ensure the creative implementation of the demands enshrined in the Statutes, to organize matters in such a way that every line of the Statutes works for the benefit of restructuring, serves restructuring, and firmly establishes in trade union organizations an atmosphere of intolerance toward shortcomings, a committed, exacting attitude toward each other and toward the results of one's own and one's comrade's work, and an atmosphere which provides scope for initiative.

The trade unions must realize their potential especially in labor collectives and reassess their possibilities and rights. Now trade union groups have been set up in virtually all production teams and trade unions are closer to the formula of "reaching every individual" than ever before. Only one thing is necessary here, namely to avoid formalism, not to rest content with just establishing grassroots trade union cells, but to promote their work by encouraging independence, self-reliance, and militancy. The focus of their attention must be man with his concerns and his needs and the living things he creates with his hands.

The practice of investing shop committees with certain trade union committee rights creates favorable conditions for a fuller realization of the trade unions' potential. This practice is gaining ground and it makes it possible, on the one hand, for shop trade union committees to play a more active and meaningful role in the solution of specific production, economic, social, and consumer questions while, on the other hand, allowing enterprise trade union committees to concentrate their attention and resources on major problems. The growth of the grassroots trade union organs' prestige thanks to the expansion of their rights and powers in the solution of a wide range of questions creates preconditions for closer organizational cohesion of the ranks of primary organizations, and hence for the solution of the tasks dictated by restructuring, in the process of which the trade unions must advance from the second echelon to the front ranks.

The activity of trade union organizations must now be geared to the main aim, that is the promotion in every way of the acceleration of socioeconomic development. The resolution adopted by the 18th Trade Union Congress and the Trade Union Statutes clearly specify the areas of the trade unions' work in the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. The trade unions have everything they need to act as a counterbalance to technocratic impulses in the economy, to seek to enhance the social thrust of adopted economic decisions, to prevent a gulf from forming between the implementation of production tasks and the development of the social sphere, to display principledness and firmness, and to stand guard over social justice.